

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

April 1996
Number 321

HERALD-TIMES, Bloomington, IN - Jan. 29, 1996

Believers find camaraderie in group

By Gena Asher
H-T Staff Writer

About 25 people who attended a meeting at the Monroe County Public Library recently were typical representatives of the area: professionals, students, factory workers and home makers; psychiatrists, pilots, mechanics and cooks.

But they had one thing in common, one thread that united them: they all believe in the presence of UFOs.

Some believe they've seen them. Others believe they exist but aren't sure if they've actually seen them.

"It's good to meet with others because this is sometimes the only chance we get to trade stories and discuss our concerns without ridicule," said Jean Bruce, one of the attendees and an avid "watcher." "People laugh at you, ask you what you've had to drink, tell you you're crazy because you believe in such things."

The 25 or 30 attendees at the library listened to a couple of speakers, watched videos of sightings and swapped reports of recent sightings. Some have been meeting informally for eight or nine years while others were new to the group.

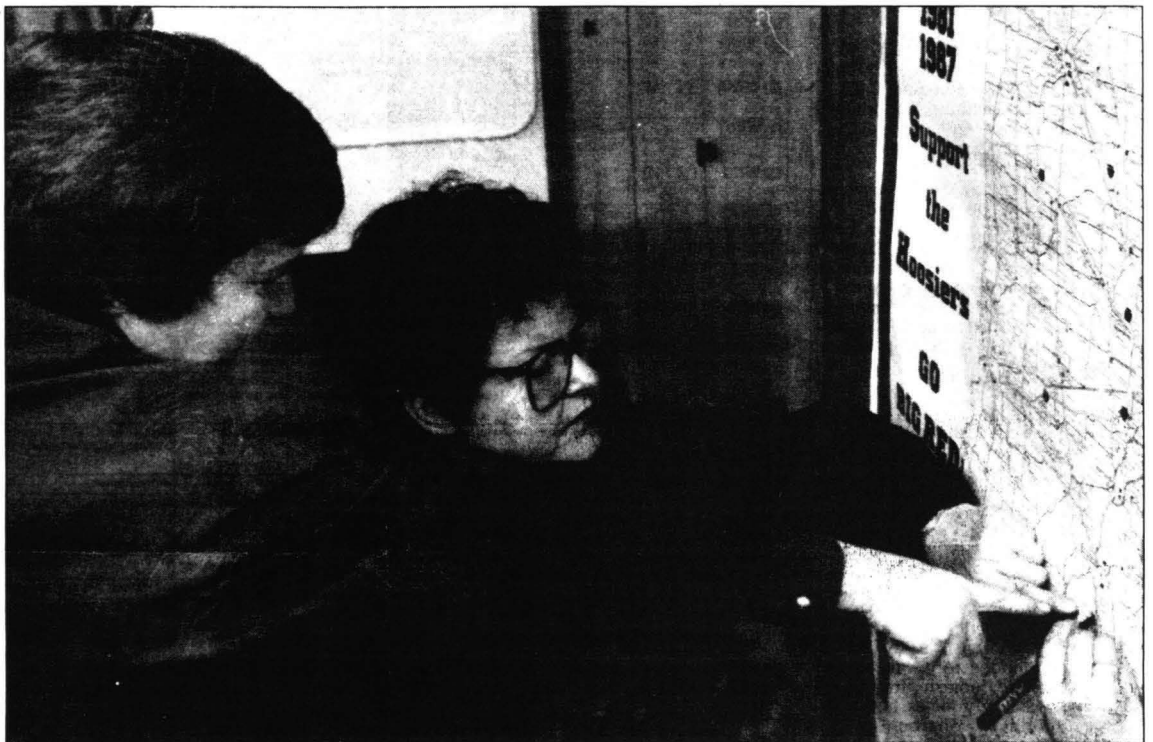
"Many of us had seen something last December, for instance, and some of us called each other to confirm it," said Bruce, who first saw a UFO in 1973 while outside with her then 9-year-old son. "(The 1973 sighting) was in the papers and many people saw it. I came to the library to research such sightings and while here, asked if anyone else was interested in UFOs. There wasn't a formal group, but the librarian said I could hold a meeting here if I wanted."

The informal group, which doesn't want to be defined by the word "club" because the members' philosophies are so diverse, met at the library, at one another's homes and at area parks over the years. Several times, people from all over the state and even adjoining states would hear about the meeting and show up.

"We're a good network for each other," said Bruce, one of few attendees who didn't mind being identified for this story. "We go out on sightings sometimes at night, as a group. We call each other when we see things."

Nationally, there are groups which maintain reports from all over the country. Mutual UFO Network, for instance, tries to provide trained investigators in many regions of the country.

"These people are trained to assess sightings and to categorize them," said Vincennes resident Jerry Sievers, state MUFON representative and field investigator training offi-



Jean Bruce, left, and Rosemary Drescher check map coordinates before meeting with others who watch for UFO sightings.

STAFF PHOTO BY DAVID SNOODGESS

cer. "It's a lot like training police detectives, teaching the way to handle photographic and physical evidence."

Sievers has been associated with MUFON for more than 25 years, helping grassroots networks swap information with one another and register their findings.

"Indiana is one of the top 10 states for people reporting sightings to MUFON," said Sievers, who has been a watcher for 37 years, since reading books on the subject in while high school. "MUFON is growing every year, with groups in every state and about 30 countries, representing over 5,500 members."

He cited opinion polls that show 51 percent of Americans who participated in the surveys believe in UFOs and of that portion, 15 percent said they've seen one.

Meeting attendees aren't surprised by these figures, but they still don't like to talk about their interests in public.

"The UFO I saw Dec. 6, for instance, was

seen by lots of other people and many of them called me that day," said Jean Bruce. "I know many calls were made to the airport and local police."

Descriptions of sightings around this area have included the traditional saucer with lights, like the first one Bruce saw in 1973, and the long pointed "wingless airplane" she saw last month. Others have seen lights that zigzag, then become stationary, or other objects that move quietly but rapidly across the sky.

Objects have been described by government authorities as everything from weather balloons to unauthorized airplanes making drug drops. Bruce and other believers say there's no proof UFOs don't exist, and that's enough to keep them looking up into the sky.

"If people don't see things themselves, then they don't believe," said Bruce. "Some people just don't want to think there's something else out there. They're afraid of the unknown."

For more information

■ The Bloomington network of people interested in UFOs plans to meet periodically this year at various locations. The next meeting is set for March 17 at 1:30 p.m. at the Monroe County Public Library auditorium. Anyone interested may attend.

■ The state Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) representative is available by mail at: Jerry Sievers, 140 Ramsey Road, Vincennes, IN 47591; or by phone, (812) 882-1862.

■ National organizations which address the subject of UFOs are: MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155-4099; FUFOR (Fund for UFO Research), P.O. Box 227, Mount Rainier, MD 20712.

Show sends Harvard's UFO prof into orbit

By MARK MUELLER

The strange and sordid world of alien abduction may inspire an earthly legal battle after a TV show airs tonight purportedly debunking the work of a Harvard professor immersed in the culture of the extraterrestrial.

Harvard Medical School psychiatrist John Mack, a longtime believer and investigator of alien abduction claims, calls the 8 p.m. "Nova" broadcast on WGBH an "unconscionable" and "terribly biased" attempt to examine stories of hijacked humans in general and his work in particular.

"The effect of this program is to try to discourage anybody from taking the reality of this phenomenon seriously," Mack said yesterday. "They try to dismiss it as hallucinations or distorted thinking or people being led by hypnotists, and in my view, having worked in this field, that is patently false."

"Alien abduction is not something that yields its se-

crets to conventional explanations."

Particularly galling to Mack — and what might trigger a defamation suit, according to his lawyer, Eric MacLeish — is Nova's use of Donna Bassett, a freelance writer who trashes Mack's work in front of the camera.

Bassett, dismissed by Mack and his lawyer as a "wacko" who latches on to a new cause every few years, says she went undercover into Mack's alien abduction subculture and paints the doctor's methods as fraudulent.

Mack has demanded that Nova cut out a four-minute interview with Bassett, a demand that a Nova producer

yesterday said had been denied.

Bassett, from her home in North Carolina, last night defended herself against Mack's attacks but said she wouldn't let them get under her skin.

"Being called a wacko by the Mackies is like being called a liberal by Pat Buchanan," she said.

Denise DiIanni, the producer of the hour-long Nova film, also mounted a vigorous defense of tonight's show, calling it a "thoughtful and considerate treatment of a complicated subject."

"We felt it was our job, however unpopular, to report whatever science said about the alien abduction phenomenon," she said.

And science, at least in the person of acclaimed astronomer and biologist Carl Sagan, dismisses alien abduction and the occasional abduction-and-rape scenario as hallucination or other scientifically explainable phenomena.

In a seven-page letter to the Boston-based television show, Mack railed against such thinking, likening alien abductees and investigators to the early pioneers of science.

"We are facing a problem like that faced by the people of the fifteenth century," he wrote. "In that day, many people could not believe the world was round because common knowledge dictated that people would fall off any round object."

HERALD, Boston, MA - Feb. 27, 1996

Alien territory



Photos by the Los Angeles Times

E.T., PHONE HOME: Only he'd never find a telephone booth out here on remote Nevada Highway 375, prime hunting grounds for UFO buffs.

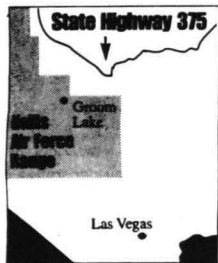
On a lonely Nevada highway, UFO hunters search for an unfamiliar face

By Carla Hall

The Los Angeles Times

RACHEL, Nev.—Kathleen Ford peers over the steering wheel of her van and points a manicured fingernail toward the dusky golden sky. "Perfect weather to pick up saucers," she says approvingly.

Many a cold lonely evening, the 45-year-old former Las Vegas blackjack dealer and beauty school graduate has pointed her camera hopefully at the desert sky and taken pictures of what looked like nothing—only to



Journal and Courier graphic

have the film reveal dark landscapes punctuated by odd squiggles of light or ghostly blobs.

UFOs, she muses.

"When there are just enough clouds in the sky, things fall into place," Ford explains. "And I pick up things."

Which is why she was acting as tour

guide to a group hoping for similar luck. This is alien territory—extraterrestrial aliens, that is.

In fact, this desolate Nevada desert is so famous for UFO sightings that the Nevada State Assembly has designated Nevada State Highway 375 the "Extraterrestrial Highway."

For Ford's 10 passengers, all attending the weeklong International UFO Congress in Mesquite, 80 miles north of Las Vegas, this ride was a long field trip. It began with sky watching and ended with a respite here at the Little A'Le'Inn, a diner that caters to the hunger pangs of UFO tourists.

In between would be a trip down white sand roads to the edge of Area 51, a highly secret military installation—the location of which is one of the military's worst-kept secrets.

Some say this is where the military tests its state-of-the-art planes. Legend among UFO buffs has it that the military holds captured spaceships there and attempts to "reverse-engineer" them. In public, the Air Force doesn't even call it Area 51. (The name is nothing more than its grid location on maps of the Nevada atomic testing site.)

The Air Force calls it the operating location near Groom Dry Lake—a part of the huge Nellis Range Complex. They



WHAT'LL YOU HAVE, BUDDY? Patrick Bailey, wearing an alien mask, gets a second look from Joe Travis, co-owner of the Little A'Le'Inn restaurant in Rachel, Nev.

won't say what goes on there.

"We don't discuss that," said Maj. Mary Feltault, an Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon. "On certain areas of the Nellis Range Complex, the mission is classified."

The secrecy of Area 51 and the mystery of UFOs are inextricably linked in this remote Nevada high desert. This group would just have to see for themselves.

As the van trundles up U.S. 93, the

flat tops of mesas spread across the horizon. In the golden light of dusk, their rocky faces are ribboned in colors of red and brown. Who could blame extraterrestrials for wanting to land in such starkly beautiful surroundings?

As the sun sets, three peach and gray clouds appear in the sky bearing an uncanny resemblance to flying saucers

CALIFORNIAN, Salinas, CA

March 6, 1996 CR: S. Canada

Strange lights seen over Pacific Grove

Pacific Grove police Tuesday night were investigating bright lights one caller said looked "like UFOs."

About 9:18 p.m., a man used his cellular phone to call from his car parked near Pico and Asilomar avenues, according to Ken Leshner, Pacific Grove community relations officer. The man reported seeing three bright objects, one white, one red and one green, fairly high in the sky and described them as looking like UFOs, Leshner said.

Two officers were dispatched while the man's friend went for binoculars. Leshner said.

The officers also reported seeing something headed north in the sky before it disappeared, and Leshner said he saw bright white and red lights when he looked out the police department door.

The police only received the one call and don't intend to investigate further, Leshner said.

as Salvador Dali might have painted them. Everyone looks and chuckles in delight. It is their first shared sighting.

Night falls by the time Ford turns onto Highway 375 and heads west, not passing another car for miles. She scans the highway for Mailbox Road — a parting in the blackness of the night, marked only by a mailbox. She once camped here alone for three weeks with little more than a sleeping bag, a camera and a rifle for protection.

From this remote swatch of land people have seen light shows they can't explain. It also happens to be a mere 20 miles from Area 51.

The air is chilly, and the only light is the moon. Chuck Clark, wearing a warm jacket and a hat with earflaps, is waiting for the group, his telescope mounted and pointed at the moon. A self-described amateur astronomer, he has devoted himself to studying UFOs and scrutinizing the perimeter of Area 51. He has even become familiar with the security guards.

"I aggravate them a lot," says Clark, a soft-spoken, serious man. "I'll sit out there for an hour and then hit them with a strobe light."

A year ago, he was on this road, peering into the distance, when he saw what looked — at first — like a flare from a mortar launch. "All of a sudden it streaked over there to that mountain," he says, pointing. "It went about 4.8 miles in

one and a half seconds." The object, he says, made nary a sound.

"Wow," someone says softly.

But why would alien beings, from millions of miles away, keep picking this tiny sliver of Nevada — so desolate that Clark himself laughingly says "at 5 in the evening you can put a sleeping bag out there on the middle line of the highway and not be disturbed until 5 the next morning?" Why would this stretch of Highway 375 turn into a kind of cult favorite landing spot for extraterrestrials?

"I never said they were extraterrestrial," Clark corrects. "They very likely may be interdimensional. Quantum physicists believe there are maybe as many as 23 dimensions. We are only aware of four. There may be other realities we don't realize."

Tonight there are no flares from any dimension or world. With the exception of a few satellites gliding by in the heavens, it's an uneventful if majestic sky. People take turns peering through the telescope while others look up unaided — content to have a night of stargazing.

But it's cold, and a closer look at Area 51 awaits. Ford plans a bold drive up to one perimeter. She scans her assembled charges, and the caravan heads across miles of sandy road, seemingly toward nowhere.

The cars stop 30 feet shy of half a dozen signposts stuck in the

road and painted red and white with the words RESTRICTED AREA. Scrub-covered hillsides flank the road, and a camera mounted on top of one ridge spies on all who drive up.

With Ford's headlights the only illumination, the group gingerly wanders up to the signposts like cats approaching a big sleeping dog.

"Don't go within 10 feet of the signs," warns Ford, "or you'll be arrested."

Sure enough, within 10 minutes, headlights begin snaking toward the visitors from beyond the warning signs.

"OK, that's it! Let's go!" cries Ford, and everyone scrambles back into the cars to beat a hasty retreat. Out the back window of the van, the only strange lights from Area 51 are the headlights of the security patrol.

Pentagon spokeswoman Feltault is philosophical about the attention Area 51 attracts. "Everybody loves a secret," she said.

But if Area 51 is forbidding, the last stop on the journey is inviting. The blinking sign of the Little A'Le'Inn, the centerpiece of the block-long town of Rachel, beckons like a beacon on the dark highway. Next to the door is a picture of an alien character with bulbous head and huge almond-shaped eyes and a sign that proclaims: "EARTHLINGS WELCOME."

Illinoisans keep eye to the sky for visitors from space

BLOOMINGTON (AP)—The way some see it, it doesn't make sense to sit around watching TV shows about alien abductions and space travel, when you can simply get off your couch, grab your binoculars and check it out for yourself.

UFOs over Illinois? Should the masses be alarmed?

While many call it bunk, others believe that close encounters occur right here in the Corn Belt.

In Illinois, there is a cadre of residents dedicated to the investigation of UFOs and the questions their existence inevitably arouse.

Paul Russell of Pekin heads the Central Illinois chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, one of the largest UFO organizations in the world. He and a band of about 30 space sentinels travel the back roads on clear nights to spot UFOs.

He says he's seen and heard of abnormalities in the night sky, ranging from bright flashes to "The Mothership," a half-mile-long vessel with flashing lights.

"Civilization as we know it will collapse," he said. "Outside beings are smarter than us. It will happen in my life span. I know I'm going to have the last laugh."

The chief of MUFON's state office, Forrest Crawford of Collinsville, says the network has been attempting to discern a pattern of UFO visits, an elusive venture thus far. The idea, he said, would be to predict when the UFOs are coming, set up shop at that site and wait.

“Outside beings are smarter than us. It will happen in my life span. I know I'm going to have the last laugh.”

— Paul Russell

One MUFON member, Gary Hart of rural Bloomington, has spent about \$10,000 on equipment he hopes will help him zero in on alien visitors.

He investigates sightings of his own and others, some of which occurred during the day, he said.

"That's when it gets really hard to discount."

George Eberhard, director of publications for the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, said 95 percent of the world's UFO reports are "garbage" that can be explained as either airplanes, satellites or planets.

After peaking in the 1970s, Eberhard said UFO sightings have declined. One explanation, he said: "Aliens were here, now they're not."

Sometime around 1980 or '81 everything fell off."

Carl Wenning, who heads the Illinois State University planetarium, concurs. "It's been awful quiet."

Crawford said UFO visits run in nine- to 11-year cycles, with small surges every five or six years.

"It ebbs and flows," said Hart, who said 410 sightings were reported in Fulton County during a six-week stretch in 1987.

But the frequency of sightings appears to be on the upswing.

In Pekin, Paul Russell reported the reappearance of "angel hair," a spider web-like substance he says is cosmic pollution from spacecraft.

The frothy, white material falls as spacecraft dart in and out of the Spoon River Valley, he said.

Greg Brown, a Bloomington UFO aficionado, said, "It's up in the air yet about what's going on. It's leading up to something and we'd better be ready. But what's our biggest enemy? Denial."

Wenning said he'll believe spacecraft from other planets are visiting earth when someone can produce a specimen that can be studied.

"The burden of proof is on them," Wenning said. "I'm talking about stuff you can put your hands on."

"Remember, there are people out there who believe that Elvis is still alive," Wenning said.

Jan. 24, 1996

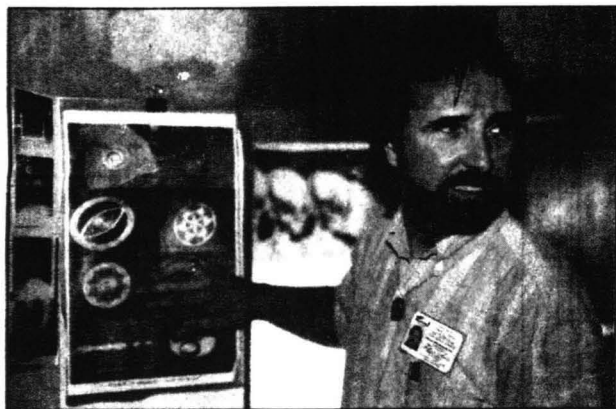
Like, man it's weird

UFO researcher Stan Gordon reports that last year on Sept. 1 a man traveling through the Penn Borough area at 3:30 a.m. noticed a bright yellow gold light that appeared stationary and looked as though it were setting on the railroad tracks.

Being curious he pulled his car over and walked to a distance of about 30 feet from the light, emanating from a strange object about 20 feet high and about as wide as the tracks.

The man went back to his car for a polaroid camera then returned and took one picture before leaving. A computer enhancement of the picture has revealed some details that were not apparent.

Gordon also reported other UFO sightings in the Jeannette, Irwin, and Harrison City area in his 1995 summary report.



CINDY TUNSTALL/photos for the Tribune
Joe Jordan of MUFON shows a display of what some believe are UFO landing sites or reference points in the United States.

UFO investigator: 'No proof'

But Joe Jordan keeps an eye on the skies

By JIM TUNSTALL
Tribune Staff Writer

COCOA — The first thing to know about Joe Jordan:

He has never seen a UFO.

The second thing:

He keeps an open mind. He does all that he can to find the truth — whether that means finding a reasonable, more earthly explanation for a "UFO" photo or finding what many of his stargazer friends seek: proof he is not alone.

So far?

"No proof," says Jordan, who remains hopeful.

When he isn't building molds for Sea Ray Boats in Merritt Island, Jordan is a field investigator for MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network Inc., an international organization that studies reported sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Four years ago, searching for a book to endure a 10-hour flight to Alaska, Jordan picked out one on the Roswell incident. UFO buffs believe the event in 1947 involved the crash of an alien spacecraft. The Air Force says it was a surveillance balloon.

That led Jordan, through a series



Ray Strunk, founder of the Daytona Beach UFO Forum, expresses his belief.

of other books and contacts, to become a member of MUFON and eventually a field investigator and state section chief.

The jobs don't require a lengthy college tour. They do require an interest in UFOs and at least a 75 percent score on an open-book test on MUFON's 311-page manual. The manual covers a wide range of topics, from how to interview and investigate reported sightings to subjects such as radar, light and radio transmissions, says Walter Andrus, founder of the Seguin, Texas-based network.

The jobs also require a certain amount of objectivity.

"I have to be a skeptic so I can be objective," Jordan says.

About a year after he joined MUFON, Jordan formed a Brevard County chapter and started his field work, checking into other people's stories.

What kind of person reports a sighting?

There isn't a stereotype, he says.

"You get a lot from retired space-center types who saw them in groups from a bunker. Then, I started coming into contact with people who said they'd been abductees, and I didn't know how to deal with them."

Melbourne resident John Frick, 70, doesn't hesitate to tell his story.

"I've had five major sightings, and I am an abductee," says the long-time Brevard County resident.

Frick says his encounter lasted five hours, but "much of my memory has been clouded by them. I do remember that they ran [medical] tests on me."

Were they little green men with light-bulb heads and big bug eyes?

"My memory is they looked like you and me. The commander was short, heavy. He looked like a farmer who ate real well."

Don Zanghi, a DeLand researcher and abductee counselor, says Frick's story isn't unusual. In some respects it's tame.

Zanghi says he uses hypnosis to learn about and treat his patients. He also has set up a support group for "abductees."

"It helps them understand they are not alone. In fact, many of the cases are very similar," he said.

Unlike Frick's description, Zanghi says most of the people who come to him describe beings who stepped out of "Close Encounters." Usually, the contact is physical and involves some sort of medical tests.

One of his clients says aliens implanted some kind of a device in his penis, and another has "a Caesarean section scar, although she never had a Caesarean section childbirth."

"There isn't pain or violence, it's closer to going to your dentist."

Many have had multiple contacts through their lifetimes.

The credentials needed for his work?

"Nobody is giving college degrees in alien abduction research, if that's what you mean," says Zanghi, 46. "If you are sensitive, know the field and can take the heat, you're qualified."

He studied with John Mack, a Harvard Medical School psychiatry professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Lawrence of Arabia. Mack also wrote "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens." The book tells the stories of 13 people who Mack believes had alien encounters. The 13 include a woman who says she gave birth to a human-alien baby and a man who says he has an alien wife in a parallel universe.

Mack's Harvard colleagues were less than en-

thusiastic about his beliefs — especially after he went on the talk-show circuit. The psychiatry department tried to have his professional privileges lifted, but it was resolved with a reprimand.

Like Jordan, Jena Bartlett, 64, is a believer.

She organized the UFO Forum of Florida, which conducts monthly meetings in Sanford, Daytona Beach, Edgewater, Cocoa and Orlando.

She, too, never has seen a UFO.

"But even as a child I'd look at the stars, then at my mother, and think that it doesn't seem possible we are the only ones. She agreed with me."

After studying the subject much of her lifetime, taking into consideration the government's explanation, Bartlett is convinced there is life beyond Earth. As for the critics, she takes them in stride.

"We have a lot of fun," Bartlett says. "Everyone can take a joke."

As for Jordan, his work is sort of like being a referee.

Some believers don't like to listen when he offers reasonable explanations for their photographs or other "evidence." He points to one photo, showing a tiny object in a daytime sky, and dismisses its "UFO" as an emulsion spot on the negative.

Often it's the government's explanations — sometimes farfetched — causing the believers to believe even stronger.

One television news tape shows what appears to be debris on the shuttle's nose. The government's answer: The debris was Earth.

"How Earth got at that angle," the commentators quips, "I don't know."

For more information on the Mutual UFO Network or various groups around the state, call Charles D. Flannigan. 904-478-0465.

Apparent UFO reportedly seen near Midway

Jason Bunch
Record Staff Writer

It came from the skies, but what was it?

That is the question some Nova BUS employees are asking after what appears to be a close encounter with a UFO Wednesday morning.

Between 5:15 a.m. and 5:45 a.m. a number of witnesses traveling north into Roswell near the Midway area from Artesia, Hagerman and Dexter sighted what can only be classified as an unidentifiable object.

"I was coming into work and there was this blue light flashing," said Kay Lykins, a shipping clerk at Nova BUS. "At first I thought it was the airport, but then I realized it was coming toward me. All of a sudden it was right beside me. I looked at it to see what it was, but then I had to turn from it because it was so bright. When I looked back it was gone."

Lykins described the object as a

bright crystal blue, but could not say what shape or size it was.

"When I was looking down the road, it looked like a roadblock light," Lykins said. "But then when it was beside me, it was so bright that I couldn't even tell about (the size)."

Tom Gomez said that he saw the object at around 5:40 a.m. as he was going into Nova BUS as well.

"I was going past the old Coors Co. (building) and I saw a blue light flashing," Gomez said. "I couldn't tell what it was. Every time it blinked it was moving by about 2,000 yards per blink or better. It was pretty fast."

Gomez said that as it moved, the light didn't appear to grow, even as the distance between he and the object diminished.

"To me it looked like it stayed the same," Gomez said. "The light didn't grow any more."

Another Nova BUS employee, Jesus Chavez, said he experienced the same phenomena going to work

Wednesday.

"It wasn't like an airplane that you can follow its path. It would blink and then suddenly be somewhere else," Chavez said. "I don't know what it was, it was traveling too fast for a jet and it was flying too low."

Both Chavez and Gomez said the object was moving very close to the ground at about the height of a telephone pole.

One more witness, Larry Vandebout from Nova BUS, said that at first it didn't phase him until others brought it up at work.

"I really didn't think much about it until everybody started talking about it, then I thought, 'Hey, something crazy might have happened,'" Vandebout said.

All of the witnesses said the object was silent and that it moved so quickly that some of them where unable to get a good look at it.

According to Lykins, more than 10 people, all traveling separately to

Midway

Nova BUS, witnessed the occurrence. She said some fellow workers have tried to offer explanations.

"They said it might have been a hot wire," Lykins said. "I checked and there was no wire out there, and there was no way the wire could have traveled."

Pearl Stoll, a volunteer at the International UFO Museum and Research Center, 400 N. Main St., said that the type of sighting described is a common one.

"This sounds like the real thing," Stoll said. "Some are blue, some are red and some are a clear and luminescent light, and it does appear early in the morning. They are brilliant lights and often times they appear blinking."

Stoll said the UFO museum has a lot of articles and documents dealing with just the kind of sighting described by the Nova BUS workers.

George Swenson, the manager of the control tower at the Roswell Industrial Air Center, said it is quite possible that something unusual occurred in the skies over Roswell without anyone at the airport noticing.

"Our guys arrive at 5:45, and there is a certain amount of work that they have to do downstairs to prepare the tower for operation," Swenson said. "There is a possibility that at 5:45 they were not in the tower."

Even if there were workers in the tower they may not have picked up anything unusual, because of the lack of radar equipment at the airport.

"We visually sight everything with binoculars and keep radio contact to know where the planes are," Swenson said.

As of now, the light that invaded the southwestern skies Wednesday morning is an enigma, and it appears that the incident will go down in the books as yet one more unsolved mystery.

Bright light in sky startles Eastsiders

'Frightening' object likely just a fireball, UW professor says

By Mike Ullmann
Journal American Staff Writer

A "stunning, stunning" UFO sighting was reported this week by residents of Redmond and Bothell.

The giant blue-white ball, half the size of a full moon, streaked across the clear sky from south to north shortly before 8 p.m. Wednesday, according to the eyewitnesses.

One report came from a pilot living in Bothell, who saw the object disappear over Woodinville, said Peter B. Davenport, director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center.

"We're talking about a prominent, sizable object in the skies," said Davenport. It was also reported by two men in Redmond and a couple in Federal Way, he said.

The object was probably a really bright fireball — an extra-large meteor that burns spectacularly as it enters the earth's atmosphere, said a University of Washington astronomy professor.

Such a fireball on Wednesday night was reported to the university. It was seen between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m., below the planet Venus in the western sky, heading south to north and downwards.

"That's undoubtedly what it is, if everybody's seeing this," said professor Woodruff Sullivan. "They're very frightening. I've only seen one in my life."

'The most extraordinary night'

There are no major meteor showers in late February, but Sullivan said a fireball can come at any time.

Davenport said last month was rife with UFO sightings, both here and elsewhere in the country.

Here, Feb. 9 "was the most extraordinary night, with multiple sightings of a long, slender, black, tubular-shaped object with at least four lights on the side," Davenport said.

The object was seen from Woodinville, Redmond, Whidbey Island and Granite Falls shortly before 6 p.m., Robinson said.

"Up to two dozen people saw it. It streaked in all directions, dipped its nose down, and disappeared behind the horizon of the Olympic Mountains."

One for the 'X-Files': Strange lights in night sky seen from Albany

BY JENNIFER MOODY
Albany Democrat-Herald

John and Marjorie Friedrichsen know it's a crazy story. But on the other hand, they say, they still don't know what the bright lights they saw Tuesday night actually were.

The couple were out walking their dog at about 10:20 Tuesday night near their home at 432 Calapooia St. when they first noticed the lights in the eastern sky above Lebanon.

"I saw this V-shaped contraption, perfectly still, motionless," Marjorie said. "It was mostly white and blue, with a little red and green towards the ends."

The Friedrichsens counted at least 17 of the strange lights. One especially bright one was more northeast than the others.

"The major portion made a large circle," John said.

"Every one of them was an identical shape, like a wide-open V," Marjorie said.

The two called the police and the Democrat-Herald to see if any other sightings had been reported. None had, but when John contacted a retired Air Force friend, he said he'd seen strange lights as well.

In the morning, when Mar-

jorie went outside at 5 a.m. to get the paper, the lights were still there. Fog obscured them shortly afterward, however.

John said he knows many such sightings are dismissed as weather balloons. "But to have so many up in the middle of the night?" he asked.

A former pilot, John said he knows what other aircraft look like in the sky at night and this didn't match any of them. "The closest thing it could have been was a chopper, but choppers don't sit in the same place for six hours," he said.

A similar sighting was reported this morning, when two people told Linn County sheriff's deputies they saw what they thought was an airplane crash near Highway 99E and Highway 34 in Tangent.

The "crash" was reported about 1 a.m. No plane was found in the area. Air control tower staff at the Salem airport said they had seen what looked like a meteor about the same time. Several Lebanon police officers reported seeing the same thing.

It's not known whether the strange sightings on Tuesday and Thursday are related.

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH
Jan. ?, 1996 CR: A. Snow

OPENERS

In & Out of Cleveland

The UFO Year In Review

The Unabomber and O.J., Hugh Grant, Farrakhan, Frank Gaul and the Indians. They were front-page news in 1995, but that didn't mean things were quiet on the UFO front.

Although the "long-term trend away from daylight sightings continued," the Fund for UFO Research Inc. describes a provocative encounter in its recently released "UFO Year In Review."

"In the Texas-New Mexico area, the crew of an Air West airliner saw a 300-foot to 400-foot-long cylindrical object below their plane," according to the review. "The sighting was confirmed by NORAD radar."

No aliens crashed to Earth in 1995, and abductions "decreased slightly."

The General Accounting Office completed its 18-month investigation into the alleged alien cover-up known as the "Roswell Incident," and concluded in typical "X-File" fashion that "the debate on what crashed at Roswell continues."

Crop circles were up.

They "continue to be seen in new and more sophisticated shapes," the review reports.

The inconclusive conclusions of a conference on "Experienced Anomalous Trauma," more commonly known as alien abduction, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, were



© FOX BROADCASTING

An extraterrestrial biological entity was autopsied on TV in ufology's most controversial event of 1995.

published in a 675-page opus entitled "Alien Discussions."

"Numerous possible explanations for the bizarre, yet consistent stories told by hundreds of 'abductees' were offered, and then rejected by the gathering of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers and 'abduction' investigators," according to the review.

And bad news for those of us who believed those were real aliens we saw on Fox TV's "Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction."

"Due to the refusal by the film's owner to permit the film to be properly analyzed," the review states, "there is considerable reason to doubt its authenticity."

For updates on current alien activity, write the fund at P.O. Box 277, Mount Rainier, Md., 20712.

— Christopher Evans

'UFO' was irrigation system, some witnesses, farmer say

Jason Bunch

Joshua Byers

Record Staff Writers

The recent sighting of a UFO south of Roswell is now the subject of dispute.

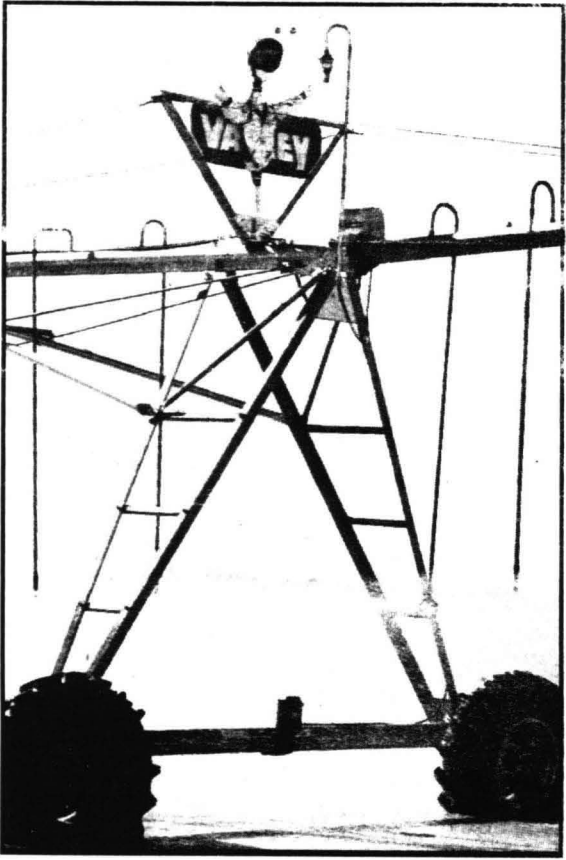
In one corner stands those who say a mysterious blue light sighted on the morning of Jan. 31 was nothing but an optical illusion created by an agricultural irrigation system.

In the other corner are the believers, who say that what they saw was not an illusion, but the real thing.

The whole incident started when more than 15 employees at Nova BUS Inc. claimed to have sighted a UFO early in the morning while driving to work. The object was described as a blue light that moved quickly through the sky and overwhelmed observers as it came close to their vehicles.

But now, some of those same eyewitnesses are recanting their original stories to say it was not otherworldly at all, but very much of this earth.

"It is a sprinkler system," Nova BUS employee Larry Vandenbout said. "It is on the south side of (U.S.) 285, right out of Midway. There is an irrigation system with a blue strobe light on there to indicate when the system is operating. I assume that the reflection off the water and the strobe projects an image in the sky that makes it look like it is moving."



Mike Pettit photo

A two-foot statue of a space alien, along with a blinking blue light, sits atop a mobile irrigation system southeast of Roswell. Many motorists passing the area at night reported the blue light as a UFO.

Vandenbout said that he has noticed the light twice now since the original sighting and after that first time, stopped to investigate it to

find the sprinkler system without any spacemen.

"When I stop the car the

illusion ends," Vandenbout said. "That's when I could tell what it was."

Eubina Rubio, who was driving into that area recently, confirms Vandenbout's interpretation of events.

"From far away it looks like a flying saucer. When I passed a certain area it just disappeared," Rubio said. "So, I slowed down to see what it was, and what I saw was a sprinkler system."

Rubio said she could see how people could mistake it for a UFO, but she said she believed what everybody has been seeing is nothing more than the illusion Vandenbout saw.

The land in question is being farmed by Fred Schrimser. After reading the reports of a UFO sighting in the Daily Record, Schrimser and his sons made a model alien and attached it to the mobile irrigation system, which has blue lights on the top that are on while it works.

"We just did that because we knew what everyone was looking at," Schrimser said. He added that the alien is just "poking fun" at all the reports of UFO sightings.

"I knew that light was flashing so I thought I'd make a joke about it," he said.

But some eyewitnesses are still maintaining that what they saw was not simple farming equipment.

"There are still some of us that say that is not what we saw," Lykins said. "I saw that (irrigation system) on the same morning that I saw that other thing (the UFO), and it simply

wasn't the same thing. I know what I saw, I know where it was at. The sprinkler system wasn't in the field where it was when it was beside me."

The path of the light on that morning bounced from one side of the road to the other and a sprinkler system simply could not do that, he added.

Vandenbout said he couldn't speak for Lykins and that she might have seen something different, but he is sure his sighting was only a sprinkler system.

"She said that wasn't what she saw last Wednesday, but I know that this is what I saw," he said.

Since the reported sighting, at least one new eyewitness has stepped forward to support Lykins' claim.

Last Friday night, in the same area as the original sighting, Rebecca Valasco said he and a friend were driving around 9:15 p.m., when a tiny blue light appeared in front of them.

"It was little and in a manner of seconds it jumped right for us. Everything was really blue. It looked like a big round trampoline," Valasco said.

After the light approached the car, it remained for a few seconds and took off as quickly as it appeared, Valasco said, adding that she looked behind her and saw the object circling the base. She also said that what she saw was not an irrigation system.

"We thought that at first, but where we saw it was past the irrigation, and it came too close to us to have been that," Valasco said.

COLORADOAN, Fort Collins, CO - Oct. 9, 1995

Local woman speaks of alien encounters firsthand

By EILEEN LAMBERT
The Coloradoan

She was observing a dramatic thunder and lightning storm when suddenly she found herself in a gray round room. A shadowy being stood before her, outlined by a pale golden light.

No words were spoken, but she understood the messages flooding her mind. She pinched herself. It was not a dream.

The vivid experience excited Fort Collins resident Jean Brown,

64, who answered questions at the Rocky Mountain Golden Age Festival of Light psychic fair in Fort Collins over the weekend.



BROWN

Brown said she wished she had been given time to ask the stranger more questions. The en-

counter occurred 32 years ago in California, she said.

As times changed and attitudes about space aliens became less cynical, Brown finally found the freedom to tell her story about a year ago.

The being told Brown, "You have a good mind, and we need to communicate with people who have good minds and can make changes."

Brown said she was never in danger.

She said flying rapidly through space and disappearing at will requires an extraordinary amount of intelligence, which is not consumed by the need to harm humans. Rather, they simply want to send a message, she said.

"He (the being) said they were guardians," Brown said. "They were watching the Earth, trying to make sure we didn't do anything destructive."

The life form also told Brown

that a changeable atom vibratory rate allowed his spacecraft to appear and disappear at will. People can see him or his spacecraft only if the frequency corresponds to the frequency humans recognize.

Although Brown never communicated with the being again, she accepted her experience and opened her mind to different ideas.

"He (the being) said there were answers and all we have to do is look for them within ourselves," she said.

CALIFORNIAN, Bakersfield, CA - Jan. 19, 1996

Court orders research group to return gold

By TIM CONWAY
Californian correspondent

The Nevada Supreme Court has upheld a 1994 lower court decision ordering gold coins worth \$400,000 be returned to an elderly man who tried to give them to a Tehachapi organization claiming ties to an extraterrestrial.

The high court ruled Jan. 4 against George Green, a former officer with the Tehachapi-based Phoenix Institute for Research and Development, who challenged a Douglas County, Nev., District Court decision to return the coins to David Overton, a former University of Texas mathematics professor now in his 80s.

The Supreme Court agreed with the district court ruling that Green had been holding the coins in what amounted to a constructive trust fund for Overton, and a

hearing wasn't needed "in the interest of effectuating justice," according to Associated Press reports.

Institute board members E.J. and Doris Ekker of Tehachapi said they had no knowledge of the coins until Overton called E.J. Ekker in 1992.

Doris Ekker told *The Californian* that she translates messages from a being known as "Hatonn" through her other persona, "Dharma."

"I don't know why, but I can translate. I definitely do hear a tone," she said in a 1993 interview with *The Californian*. "It sounds like we are some flakes running with little E.T.s out here. We are not here to further some metaphysical drivel."

The Ekkers filed a lawsuit against Green in February 1993

for allegedly stealing the coins, which subsequently were deposited with the court until the dispute was settled.

"Our main objective was to get the coins back to Mr. Overton," E.J. Ekker said.

According to Ekker, Green received four shipments of coins from Overton. Lawyers for the Ekkers said Green instructed Overton to pack the gold in boxes labeled "machine parts" and address them to him. Ekker said Green packed up his Bear Valley home and moved to Carson City, allegedly taking the coins and burying them in his backyard. Green filed a counterclaim naming the Phoenix Institute, the Ekkers and even "Hatonn, commander in chief, sector flight command, intergalactic federation fleet."

It is unknown whether Overton still intends to donate the coins directly to the institute.

Brown acknowledges public cynicism about alien encounters but she feels people are more accepting now than in the 1960s when she had her experience.

She remains intrigued with studying aliens and has produced nine videos examining various sightings of unidentified flying objects, in addition to many other infomercials about ruins in Central America and historical documentaries.

Whenever she works on her videos about UFOs, she takes into account that the "spacecraft" many people see are actually secret military experiments.

"It would be nice if they (the military) told us more about what's going on, so people aren't startled when they see something," she said.

Brown is working on her next video about alien abduct-

ees, called "Strangers In Our World." The tape will offer a mix of different people's encounters, including some that Brown called "good connections" and others she called "off-the-wall experiences."

"I'm trying to sort them out," Brown said. "Some people firmly believe what they're saying, but it doesn't fit with what I already know. I have a hard time believing people who say they were harmed, unless there is something out there I don't know about."

She also wants to investigate recent claims that people saw UFO activity west of Horsetooth Reservoir.

"That doesn't surprise me," she said. "Mountains are a natural magnet for this type of thing."

There may be several people in Fort Collins who communicated with the beings and have not reported the experience, she said.



Troy Mabey/The Idaho Statesman

Meridian "Buzz" Copple looks out over the field behind his house where he says he saw a bright UFO last year. Copple lives off Meridian Road about four miles off the Interstate toward Kuna. Many people in the Treasure Valley also reported seeing the UFO.

THE IDAHO FILES

in our skies and on tv, ufos are hot

by Marianne Flagg ○ The Idaho Statesman

The bright ball of light racing just above the horizon couldn't have been an airplane. It was moving too rapidly.

And it wasn't a meteor, Buzz Copple figured. It was traveling too slowly.

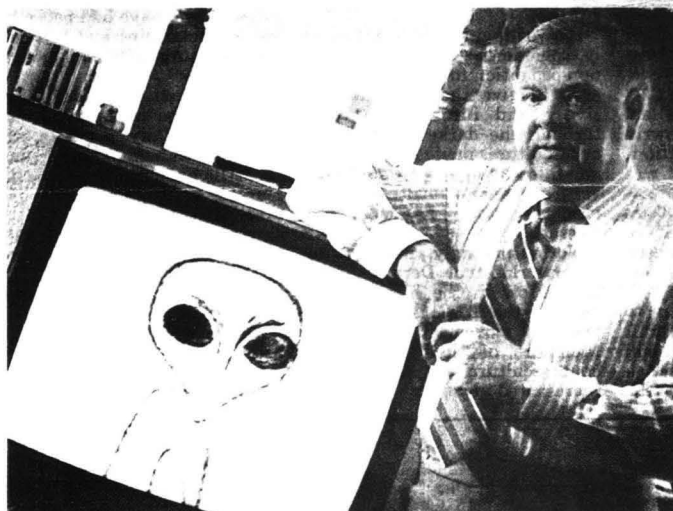
The Meridian man had just fed his horses on a still, cool morning when his eyes darted toward the southern sky. It was 6:30 a.m.

"There was no trail, no smoke, no sound," Copple recalls. "It turned from one large white light into what appeared to be green to red. Then it disappeared like a taillight going out of sight."

What Copple believes he saw is one of the great mysteries of modern life. It is the spawner of cults, nightmares, hopes and bitter discussions — an unidentified flying object.

"When you have seen one of these, you know what you've seen," Copple, 51, says firmly. "The hair stands up on your neck. It gives you a chilling feeling. It's not of this Earth."

(continued on page 7)



Ike Bishop, leader of Boise's Mutual UFO Network, takes reports on UFO sightings in Idaho. The TV show "Sightings," which will air a Boise-based program on May 19, frequently interviews people about their claims of alien encounters.

Troy Mabey/The Idaho Statesman

idaho sightings

Here are some reported sightings in Idaho during the past year. They are listed as they appear in the records of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle:

- July 23, 11 p.m. Snake River: "Twelve passengers on a tour boat see 'manta ray' pass directly overhead. Delta-shaped wings appear 'topple.' Strange black color."
- Aug. 29, 5:50 a.m. Boise: "Man reports sighting bright white light streaking east to west 60 degrees above the southern horizon. One-third diameter of full moon. Second sighting by others."
- Sept. 5, 11 p.m. Boise: "Two adults witness what appears

to be a straight line of five to seven lights hovering motionless in the sky. Definite, distinct colors."

- Sept. 24, 8:25 p.m. Boise: "Woman calls to report seeing large, triangular-shaped black mass hovering, moving slowly. Son sees same thing from different location."
- Oct. 14, 10:30 p.m. Sandpoint: "Man calls to report multiple witness to 'green fireball' over Washington, Idaho and Montana. Very strange object!"
- Dec. 14, 4:24 a.m. Boise: "FAA employee observes six objects descend out of the night sky and explode into fragments very close to the ground. Bizarre sight."

the truth is out there

The Internet is awash in sites devoted to UFO study, advocacy or debunking. Whether or not you're convinced, you'll learn a lot about what others believe.

- Here are a few of the more interesting spots:
- The Mutual UFO Network's home page: <http://www.rutgers.edu/~mufon>
- The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle to report sightings: <http://www.nwlink.com/~UFOCNTR>, or call 206-722-3000.
- The UFO Guide (a list of sites):

- <http://www.rahul.net/rogerd/ufoguide/html>
- "I Want to Believe" (links to UFO stuff, some the same as the UFO Guide): <http://www.voicenet.com/~stubbysa/believe.html>
- UFO sightings by astronauts: <http://www.cs.bgsu.edu/~jzawodn/ufo/astrosightings/html>
- "The X-Files" (one of many about the Fox TV show): <http://www.ualberta.ca/~vichan/www/x-files.html>
- Skepticspage: <http://www.rtd.com/~jfieming/ufo.html>

Other Idahoans reported seeing the light that riveted Copple on Aug. 29. Dozens of unexplained sightings occur in the state every year.

Fascination with UFOs has seeped from murky cult status and tabloid fodder into the mainstream world of scientists and the media.

Whatever Copple saw will be the subject of the May 19 episode of "Sightings," the syndicated TV program that re-creates alleged sightings of UFOs.

UFOs also are the topic of talks Tuesday and March 5 in Boise's Community Education program. Ike Bishop, state section director for the Mutual UFO Network, will discuss sightings in Idaho.

MUFON is an international non-profit organization that collects and investigates reports of sightings.

While skeptics and debunkers abound, the average person seems increasingly willing to at least consider the possibility of something intelligent out there.

Alien or earthly?

Bishop spoke with about 100 people in the Boise area who saw the bright light Aug. 29. Many had phoned KBOI-AM radio, which passed calls on to him.

Upon investigation, Bishop concluded no aircraft were flying then, and that the sighting was a UFO that may have been of extraterrestrial origin.

Skeptics, however, question the interpretation of what people are seeing.

"Anyone can see a UFO. I've seen a few," says Joe Nickell, senior research fellow with the New York state-based Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. "What we mean by UFO is an unidentified flying object."

But concluding a UFO is alien craft, he says, "is a logical fallacy known as arguing from ignorance. We say, 'I don't know what something was, therefore it is fill-in-the-blank.'"

Nickell and other doubters explain away many of the major sightings of lights or alien craft as government balloons and other projects that were secret. Such secrecy gave birth to conspiracy theories and alien explanations.

He cites the now-infamous story about a supposed 1947 crash of an alien craft in Roswell, N.M..

It was, Nickell says, nothing more than Project Mogul, a secret U.S. array of instruments and balloons designed to monitor sonic emissions from Soviet nuclear tests.

"What appears to be the case is that when you have secrecy, you have a situation in which things fester," Nickell says. "The first thing that people do in response is to speculate. It becomes paranoid conspiracy."

And what of people who claim to have seen the bodies of dead aliens in the crash?

Nickell dismisses it. "What is the phenomenon that causes Elvis sightings? We have a type of psychological contagion."

Seeing something

Bishop agrees that many UFOs can be explained by earthly, non-alien events, such as military projects.

Still, he and others believe there are mysteries that scientists and skeptics can't explain.

"(People) are seeing too many things now to not believe that something is there," he says.

Bishop, 50, is convinced that many UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin because he had two sightings of his own.

As a boy, Bishop and his father saw "this huge thing that looked like a gray football over Malta. It had to have been 200 feet in diameter."

Then, in 1979, while living in Las Vegas, Bishop says he was in his yard one night when the area suddenly glowed with light. It wasn't a helicopter, he says.

"I called 911 and they said they'd been notified by the military that it's a meteor," Bishop says. "I knew that was false. Meteors don't hover."

Copple, too, believes his sighting was from another civilization. He says it's happened to him before.

He was in Vietnam in 1967 in the infantry. It was night, and he and his assistant gunner were pulling watch.

"There was a fire fight taking place six to seven miles away," Copple recalled. "All of a sudden, this huge bright light came on. My first impression was it was a helicopter with landing lights."

Copple says he knows what a helicopter looks and sounds like. This wasn't it.

"Within seconds it came over us, totally lit the area up brighter than daylight. There was no sound, no heat, no odor, nothing. It seemed to hover right over the top of us, turned left and it turned green to red and disappeared."

He couldn't discern any outline of a craft, he says. The changing light patterns were identical to those he saw in the Kuna area last August.

For a long time, Copple hesitated to talk about his sightings. He feared ridicule. "People think, 'Oh, you were traumatized (by the war)?'"

"We have people from totally different cultures, from different hemispheres relating the exact same stories, and they don't even know one another. How could that be?"

Secrets in space?

Jim Steinfert, a former computer contractor for NASA, also has seen strange lights. He was 17 or 18 in Michigan. He didn't give it much thought until he went to work on computer simulators for command capsules at NASA.

Steinfert, who lives in Boise, now thinks the lights could have been alien UFOs.

While working at NASA, he heard stories about sightings of UFOs by astronauts. People whispered about U.S. space vehicles being "followed."

Speaking to a meeting recently of 30 members of the Boise MUFON group, Steinfert was asked why NASA continued to launch Apollo missions if UFOs were real.

"They saw a lot of (UFOs) over a long period of time, but there was never a problem," he replied.

Steinfert believes the government knows UFOs exist and is covering it up in part to prevent hysteria. But he thinks the main reason for a cover-up is "ego." "If they said it wasn't real then, and they say it is now, they've got a credibility problem."

Astronaut sightings are one of the more intriguing stories surrounding UFOlogy.

Yet Nickell, who writes a column for Skeptical Inquirer magazine, remains unconvinced. "Astronauts are people like any other people. They are probably more likely to see strange things from their vantage points than you and I are."

Lights in Idaho

It's not unusual for MUFON to receive more than 100 reports of strange sightings each year in Idaho, Bishop says.

"There have been a great deal of UFO sightings in North Idaho," adds Peter Davenport, executive director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. The non-profit phone line takes calls and publishes reports. It lists only six events occurring in Idaho last year.

One is the Aug. 29 event, but the reported time of that sighting doesn't jibe with Copple's.

The "Sightings" program will look at another mysterious light in the Idaho sky.

On Feb. 10, 1994, an explosion boomed and light blazed briefly over Fairfield, near the desolate sagebrush of the Mount Bennett hills.

"It was bright enough to trip the photo sensors on the street lights. They went off," says Mark Johnson, then a Camas County Sheriff's deputy who was in his office. "(The explosion) rattled the entire building."

He thought it might be a plane crash. He hopped in his car and looked for damage. He found none. He called Mountain Home Air Force Base and was told they had no planes in the air at the time that would go fast enough to create a sonic boom.

Johnson, who was interviewed by the "Sightings" TV crew, subsequently heard that others had called wondering what happened.

Johnson is not ready to pronounce the light an alien craft. Still, he's curious and open-minded.

"I don't have a clue," he says. "I'm not the type who believes in UFOs. It's like, 'How's Elvis, and when was the last time you saw him?' But I'm not going to rule that out."

"I feel that there's something out there, but I don't know what. I would like someone to show up at my door with a report that says, 'This is what you saw.'"

The start of 'saucers'

An Idahoan opened the modern era of "flying saucers."

At 2:59 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 1947, Boise businessman Kenneth Arnold was flying in his Callair plane over Mineral, Wash., searching for the downed wreckage of a C-46 marine transport plane believed to have hit Mount Rainier.

"He saw a tremendous blue-white flash that lit up the surface of his airplane," says his daughter, Kim Arnold, who lives in the Boise area. "When he came to his senses, he noticed these objects approaching."

There were nine objects that were shaped roughly like half of a saucer, he later said. He described their flight movement as like "the tail of a Chinese kite or speedboats in rough water."

Arnold figured they were traveling more than 1,700 miles per hour, judging by the time it took them to cross the distance between two peaks.

He later told a newsman in Pendleton, "They flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."

The media picked up on his expression and coined the phrase "flying saucer."

Kim Arnold, who is writing a book about her father, says he became devoted to studying UFOs and keeping his sighting historically accurate.

A celebrity overnight, he also struggled to raise his family amid adulation and infamy. He eventually stopped making public comments about his sighting.

Yet in his 1952 book, "The Coming of the Saucers," Arnold wrote, "It is time the truth was sifted from the untruth, the facts from the fakery, the real flying saucer from the fanciful. It may be the most vitally important fact of our time."

Echoing a similar theme, Bishop of the MUFON group says it's up to people who have seen objects and believe in them to uncover their origin.

"We feel that if the answer to the UFO phenomenon is going to be forthcoming, it will come from the people."



Courtesy of Fox
David Duchovny and
Gillian Anderson star in
"The X-Files."

media blitz

UFOs have invaded pop culture.

One of the most popular shows on television is Fox's "The X-Files," a riveting and coolly creepy hourlong drama about federal agents investigating UFOs, government conspiracies and other strange doings.

It's the No. 1 show in the Boise viewing area on Friday nights. It airs at 8 p.m. on KTRV Channel 12.

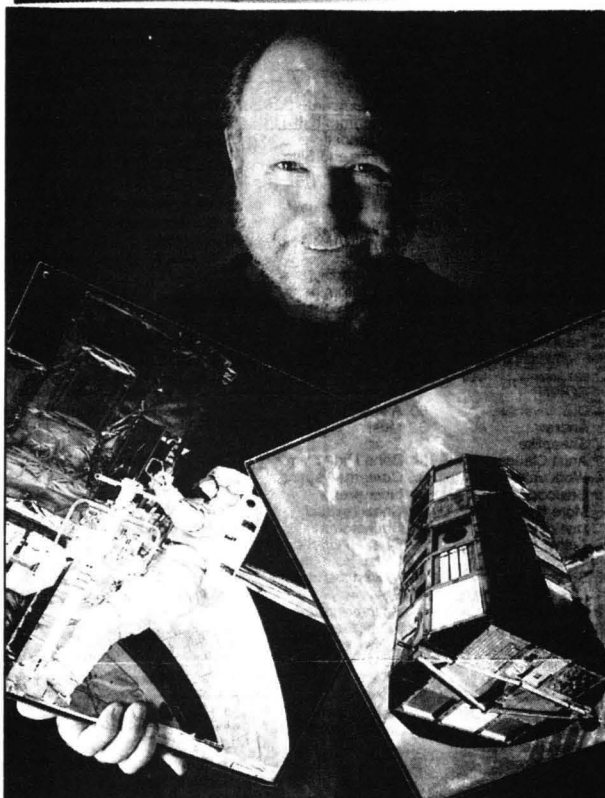
It's prompted a glut of "X-Files" books and on-line computer Web pages and discussions.

Other media addressing paranormal or UFO activity:

■ **Sightings**, an ongoing show at 4 p.m. Sundays on KBCI Channel 2. It re-creates claims of sightings and abductions. A Boise-based show airs May 19.

■ **"Nova"** at 8 p.m. Tuesday on KATV Channel 4. The public television show will air a documentary this week called "Kidnapped by UFOs?" It explores the stories of those who say they were abducted and studied by alien races.

■ **"ID4"** ("Independence Day"), a high-budget 20th Century Fox movie opening July 3, about UFOs that land July 2, attack the Earth July 3, and the Earth fights back July 4.



Chris Butler/The Idaho Statesman

Jim Steinfert worked on the computer simulator for NASA during several Apollo missions including Apollo 13. Steinfert often gives presentations about his role in the 1970 Apollo 13 space mission.

Astronauts' sightings of UFOs

Here are some of the purported UFO sightings by NASA astronauts. This material comes from Internet sources, some of it stemming from astronauts themselves:

■ **Gordon Cooper**: On May 15, 1963, he was shot in orbit in a Mercury capsule, the last American to fly in space alone. During the final orbit, he told the tracking station at Muchea, in Australia, that he could see a glowing object ahead of him approaching his capsule.

It was picked up on ground radar. Cooper's sighting was reported by NBC, but when Cooper landed, reporters were not allowed to question him about the sighting.

■ **Ed White and James McDivitt**: In June 1965, astronauts White and McDivitt were passing over Hawaii in a Gemini spacecraft when they spotted a weird-looking metallic object with long arms

sticking out of it.

■ **Jim Lovell and Frank Borman**: In December 1965, Gemini astronauts Lovell and Borman say they saw a UFO during their second orbit. Lovell reported seeing a "bogey at 10 o'clock high." Flight control asked Lovell if it was the booster or "an actual sighting."

"We have several ... actual sighting," he said. "We also have the booster in sight."

■ **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin**: During Apollo 11, they are said to have reported seeing a light in a crater, as well as alien craft on the moon.

■ **NASA's Maurice Chatelain**: In 1979, Chatelain, former chief of NASA Communications Systems, confirmed that Armstrong had seen two UFOs. "The encounter was common knowledge in NASA, but nobody has talked about it until now," Chatelain is quoted as saying.

Steven
Liebman

Just try to explain this one

Have you seen something strange in the sky recently?

Not to worry. You may be one of hundreds or even thousands in western Pennsylvania who refuse to admit you have seen something overhead hovering, darting side to side or going by in a flash of light.

If you are one of them, don't be embarrassed. It's happened to many.

In most cases, what you have seen probably can be explained. In easy scientific terms, that is. In other cases, the incident just may be chalked up to the "G" files.

"G" as in Gordon. Stan Gordon. Gordon keeps files and investigates unexplained phenomena. Almost like Fox Mulder does on the "X-Files" television series.

Almost. Mulder works for the U.S. government, specifically the FBI. Gordon works for an electrical-repair shop.

The Westmoreland County resident has been interested in UFOs since he was 10. Since then, the now 46-year-old man has been working with groups and volunteers cataloging information.

Here are a couple of highlights from his 1995 report. These are items for which a scientific explanation has not yet been found.

■ On Feb. 13, at Beaver Run Dam, a pilot sitting in his home saw a strange pattern of lights outside. He went out for a better look and saw two huge, solid, triangular objects passing silently across the sky.

The colors and light patterns were unlike conventional aircraft. Other sightings of the strange objects were reported that same night within a short time.

■ On March 2, in Cambria, Westmoreland, Allegheny and Butler counties, for more than two hours during the evening, a strange light phenomena was reported in an area about 100 miles wide. There were numerous beams of light that made a complete circle around the horizon. No one has been able to find an explanation for the event.

■ On Oct. 12, in Centre County at 3:15 p.m., a woman and her son heard an intense roaring sound and felt a vibration that was so strong the entire house shook.

They went outside to find out what was creating the disturbance and were amazed to see a huge, solid object passing slowly about 100 feet overhead. The object was described as being roughly triangular in shape. The object had a grayish-silver appearance and had eight lights of various size and colors on its surface. It was estimated to be 200 feet wide and 100 feet long. It was observed for five minutes moving very slowly in a straight line.

After the object was out of sight, the loud vibrating sound could still be heard. Unusual electrical and animal disturbances were noticed during the observation. During the evening, other similar reports came from that section of the state.

Sure, some of these things seem kind of weird. That's why Gordon goes out to investigate.

"A lot of things on the surface look strange," Gordon said. "But you find the majority of the re-

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT - March 9, 1996 CR: Z. Van Eyck

REWARD

KCNR aims to flush out UFOs with \$10 million

Radio station vows to pay anyone who can land alien vessel in its parking lot.

By Lynn Arave
and Zack Van Eyck
Deseret News staff writers

Got a UFO stored in your garage? Fly it into a Salt Lake City parking lot next week and you could be a multimillionaire.

Salt Lake radio station KCNR (AM-1320) is offering \$10 million to anyone who can land a UFO in its parking lot — 434 Bearcat Drive — next week. The only catch is that the craft must be certified by the U.S. government as being of extraterrestrial origin.

Station general manager Scott Mahalick said the bizarre five-days-only offer will be announced Sunday on "Ground Zero," a 6-month-old KCNR program that focuses on the unexplained and the paranormal.

Mahalick said SCA Promotions of Dallas has guaranteed it will pay the \$10 million, if certain restrictions are met. The craft must land during business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 11-15.

"They initially laughed," Mahalick said of SCA Promotions' response. "Now they're serious."

As unusual as it sounds, the offer is not unique. Other U.S. media outlets have constructed UFO landing pads or offered big money for out-of-this-world proof — most notably, the National Enquirer.



Clyde Lewis, Todd Herman and Martin Davies, KCNR disc jockeys, prepare a landing spot for UFOs.

Beginning in the early 1970s, the tabloid offered \$50,000 for a "real" UFO, and the prize reached \$2 million before the contest was discontinued at the end of the decade.

Frank Salisbury, a professor of plant physiology at Utah State University and author of "The Utah UFO Display," was a member of a "blue-ribbon panel" the National Enquirer assembled to determine if any claims were legitimate.

Salisbury said the committee pored through hundreds of letters, many of them quite humorous, and examined pieces of metal and other material — allegedly from alien spacecrafts — that were not readily identifiable.

"I had an ongoing correspondence with a guy in Chicago who was

going to take me in the spaceship Neptune to Mars," Salisbury said. "I figured, well, if he does, that would be proof."

Salisbury never did make that journey and remains skeptical that UFOs are actually alien vessels. However, in writing his book, "it was clear from the interviews I had with people in the Uinta Basin, they were seeing some very strange things."

Some UFO researchers believe captured or crashed alien craft may be housed at a high-security government base at Groom Lake, Nevada, or at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

But Mildred Bieseke, a Salt Lake resident and state director for the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, said she doubts SCA Promo-

tions is in any danger of losing \$10 million.

"I don't think anybody is sitting there with a UFO in their garage," Bieseke said. "I don't think \$10 million would mean anything to an extraterrestrial. And if the government has one, I don't think it will come forward."

Official rules for the UFO offer will be available at the station's offices next week.

"Ground Zero" airs from 4-7 p.m. every Sunday and is followed by two national programs about UFOs and related phenomena — the Denver-based "Paranet Continuum" with Michael Corbin from 7 to 8 p.m., and the Las Vegas-based "Dreamland" with Art Bell from 8 to 11 p.m.

POST-DISPATCH, Center, CO - Feb. 14, 1996

Center man captures UFOs on hand-held video camera

By Mark Hunter
Special to Valley Publishing

James Armijo said he has been seeing unidentified flying objects in the San Luis Valley skies his whole life, but two weeks ago, he caught three of them on videotape flying over the San Juan Mountains.

The silvery, disk-shaped objects were moving up and down and sideways just above the horizon of Greenie Mountain a few minutes after sunset Jan. 25.

"These things were moving all over the sky," he said.

Armijo was at his cousin's house near Colorado 17 north of Alamosa when he videotaped the flying craft.

"I saw one right over Greenie. It was sitting right on top of the mountain. When I zoomed in on it, I couldn't find it, but I saw another one."

On Wednesday morning, he showed his videotape to Crestone 'paranormal investigator' Christopher O'Brien. O'Brien is nearly finished writing a book, "The Mysterious Valley," and intermittently publishes "The Mysterious Valley Report" newsletter.

The tape showed as one object disappeared, another appeared. A third craft appears from the right side of the television screen and slowly moves across it.

O'Brien said he will send Armijo's tape to the Fox

television show "Sightings" for professional examination.

Last October, "Sightings" featured the August videotape of a large object over Salida, more recent sightings in the San Luis Valley as well as the January 1994 Greenie Mountain 'fire' incident.

Armijo said he has shown the tape to friends and family members in the last two weeks.

"They were all amazed. There's gotta be an answer to what's going on," he said.

O'Brien was not amazed because he's seen many similar videotapes and has even recorded some strange flying objects himself. He is part of a network of Valley residents who nightly scan the skies for UFO's or other paranormal activity.

"This is consistent with many reports we've been getting lately. This is very credible footage," O'Brien said.

"The objects in this footage are very similar to objects seen around Gulf Breeze (Florida, another UFO hot spot)," he said. "There is a transparent quality to these objects. It's almost like they were holographic projections that we've heard the Air Force has been testing. They may be throwing holograms to see if somebody catches on."

"I'd be the last person to say these are space ships

**'I would be the last
person to say these are
spaceships from Mars...'**

—CHRISTOPHER O'BRIEN
PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR

from Mars. Most sightings people see in the Valley are military.

O'Brien cited a secret military operation called Project Shining Mountain where three military craft fly over an area in formation and shine strobe lights on each other to make it look like a huge UFO is flying overhead.

Whether these three objects are military, Armijo said he believes what he saw.

Growing up in Center, he said, "I've seen strange objects eight or nine times. A lot of people say I'm nuts, or I'm seeing things. They are not sunspots, they move. You can see it spinning," he said as he crouched down in front of his television set and pointed to it. "I know there's something here."

Armijo said he saw another strange sight last week near Alamosa but didn't have his camcorder with him.

"It looked sorta like a boomerang. It was near the big blue water tower in Alamosa. It was just sitting there. It didn't move. Then it disappeared."

O'Brien encouraged Armijo to immediately write down his sightings and call him at (719) 256-4128 so others can be alerted to watch for objects.

Often, O'Brien said, objects can be tracked across the Valley skies by his network of observers.

ports have scientific explanations."

Then, there are those instances in which it is difficult to find a scientific explanation or a reason why something has appeared.

According to Gordon, whenever physical evidence is found at a contact site, the evidence is

something that could normally be manufactured by human beings.

But in the above-mentioned cases, there was never a reasonable explanation as to why those substances were in those locations, he said.

And, to answer the basic question. No. Gordon has never seen a

UFO or experienced something strange or weird. Not yet.

Steven Liebman is the features editor of The Tribune-Democrat and an award-winning columnist.

Are watchful eyes monitoring life on Earth?

UFO buffs convinced southeastern Ohio under surveillance

By TERRY KINNEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WATCHING THE SKIES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio groups that monitor and investigate reports of unidentified flying objects:
Mid-Ohio Research Organization, Dublin
Phenomenon Investigation Committee, Columbus
Phenomenon Research Organization, South Charleston

Roundtown UFO Society, Circleville
Associates for Scientific Knowledge, Norwood
Mutual UFO Network, Westerville
Mutual UFO Network, Dayton

CINCINNATI — Beam us up, Scotty. We've been spotted.

Ohio, it seems, is a hotbed of UFO sightings, according to those who monitor all things extraterrestrial.

Why? We're interesting.

One aficionado theorized that the region has "on its surface or under it, man-made or natural ... something that triggers intensive UFO surveillance."

"Ohio is up near the top — Ohio and New Mexico — in UFO sightings," said Jim Donohoe, who publishes Equinox, a monthly newsletter for UFO buffs, from his home in London, Ohio.

Donohoe said he believes aliens started watching Earth during World War II and intensified their monitoring during the Atomic Age.

Extensive atomic testing was done in New Mexico, and Ohio is an aviation center.

"Green fireball sightings started when we started atomic tests," Donohoe said. "Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has a lot

to do with testing new radar and weapons systems, and it was the information and communication hub during World War II."

During the war, one of the nation's largest airplane plants was in Cincinnati. Since then, the government has operated uranium processing plants at Fernald and Portsmouth.

Hundreds of flights daily could explain some of the unidentified lights UFO spotters have reported.

The aviation industry has burgeoned in southwest Ohio.

Wright-Patterson near Dayton is still an Air Force command center, and GE Aircraft Engines, which has its headquarters in suburban Evendale, is one of the nation's two largest suppliers of jet engines.

The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport is Delta's second-largest hub. Airborne Express is headquartered at Wilmington, and DHL Worldwide Express has a hub in suburban Dayton.

The late Leonard Stringfield of suburban Mariemont used his 1977 book "Situation Red: The

tique alive.

Donohoe belongs to two groups — Phenomenon Investigation Committee in Columbus and the Phenomenon Research Organization in South Charleston.

Not all UFO enthusiasts believe aliens are visiting Earth.

"If I was younger, I would say yes, there could be," said ASK member Dale Farmer of Middletown, who has grown skeptical over the years.

He once wanted to be an astronaut and still follows UFO sightings on the Internet.

But fellow ASK member Charles Stuart of West Chester says too many people have reported UFO sightings to be written off.

"If you discount them, you have to say that thousands and thousands of people are crazy. That's too simplistic for me," he said.

"I lean toward it being some sort of man-made secret aircraft. As technology increases, it's more difficult to determine what is alien and what is man-made."



TOM UHLMAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER

Associates for Scientific Knowledge members Kenny Young left, Charles Stuart, center and Dale Farmer chart UFO sightings in southwestern Ohio at Young's home.

UFO Siege" to describe his investigations.

He contended that 10 southwestern Ohio counties — Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Clermont, Preble, Montgomery, Greene, Clinton, Highland and Brown — might be interesting to aliens if only because of the industrial base.

"But this region does have a uniqueness, a fact long known by many UFOlogists: on its surface or under it, man-made or natural, there is something that triggers intensive UFO surveillance, something that is undetected by our human sensors," Stringfield said.

Kenny Young of suburban Norwood agrees. He is a member of Associates for Scientific Knowledge, a group of about 12 people who meet monthly to swap stories and investigate reports of mysterious sightings.

"It's not considered credible science, but there is a case you can make," said Young, 29, who also is a musician and video production specialist.

He thinks some UFOs are secret government craft related to GE's testing facility in Adams County. He doesn't believe in space travelers.

Donohoe does. He is convinced visitors have come "from space, another dimension or another time ... something the government is trying to keep quiet."

One of the most venerable UFO tales says Wright-Patterson is the repository for bodies of aliens who crashed on Earth. Donohoe believes it. He says his uncle saw the bodies in 1953.

Young's group believes the Air Force has a secret telephone number where law enforcement agencies report sightings.

Lt. Col. Marc Martens, head of public affairs at Wright-Patterson, said the Air Force has grown weary of the legend and refuses to accept inquiries about UFOs.

"The Air Force doesn't deal in that anymore," Martens said. "Our involvement with that ended years ago."

ASK is one of many Ohio groups that keep the UFO mys-

comments, "There are stranger things people believe in."

What the population knows is very little.

History is all we have for the future. Roswell, New Mexico became famous worldwide in 1947 when residents claimed a disk crashed in the desert just outside of town.

As the local legend goes, investigators from the Armed Air Corps collected the debris, two dead alien bodies, and one alive alien and went to a military base. Later a military report came out saying that the scattered debris was nothing but a crashed weather balloon. Roswell residents insist the governments is lying.

Some feel that this was the start of the government conspiracy to hide the fact that aliens exist; others feel that the entire affair was the work of peoples' overactive imaginations.

Like Roswell, there is a place in the desert near Las Vegas

called Area 51. This large fenced-in area does not appear on any maps and many alien enthusiasts argue that there is a military base located on the grounds and the communi-

cation with aliens is taking place as you read this article.

UFO enthusiasts who have broken the law and trespassed onto the grounds have been shot at since as anyone who watches the Discovery Channel knows military police can legally kill anyone on the restricted grounds. Survivors possess pictures proving the base does exist on the

grounds. Some people think that our government has received technology from aliens. This technology information resulted in the F-117 Night Hawk or the Stealth Bomber. It is true that this plane does not look like any other plane ever created, but could it have come from alien technology?

Alien enthusiasts

say that all the proof needed is in the abductions. The number of people who claim they have been abducted by aliens is growing. Abductions, according to some, can happen anytime to anyone, and the people who have claimed this range from drug ad-

Abductions, according to some, can happen anytime to anyone, and the people who have claimed this range from drug addicts to doctors and lawyers.

dicts to doctors and lawyers. Abductions can not be proven by some and some people discredit these accounts, but anything can happen.

Nearly everyone has an opinion about aliens, and, if nothing else, the questions people have about them might bring a little excitement.

If you want answers, look up in the night sky and watch the stars. After all, it is all about what you believe.



Are Aliens Real? El Capitan's Viewpoint on Flying Saucers, Aliens, and Abductions

by Denise Dreis

Extraterrestrials have been common subjects in books, movies, and TV. Nearly everyone has seen movies like 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' and 'Fire in the Sky.' These are the movies that give spark to our imagination and make us wonder: ARE WE ALONE?

With Hollywood making more and more realistic movies, there is a popular theory roaming the nation and El Capitan: Aliens are real.

El Capitan students generally feel that there is something out there in the vastness of space. Their opinions on the topic range from deathly serious to silly accounts of

"My friends and I were at this party in Blossom Valley," says Mac Powers, "and we saw a blue and purple light fly across the sky."

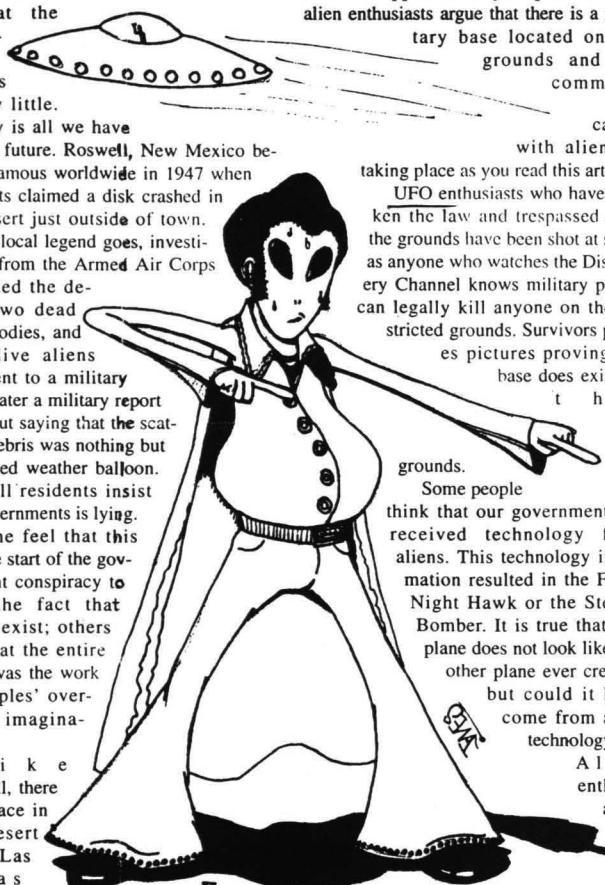
'encounters.'

"My friends and I were at this party in Blossom Valley," says Mac Powers, "and we saw a blue and purple light fly across the sky. It looked like it landed so we all took off toward the hill. When we got there, the light was gone. Aliens are a definite possibility."

"They are among us," feels Elana Scott, "and, soon, they will be revealed."

Ben Larsen says, "I am an alien. I'm going to phone home and call the others."

Separating fact from fiction in a mess of conspiracy, lies, and altered videotape is not easy. Nevertheless, as Abigail Wilson



Quiet Town On ET Road Using Lure Of U.F.O.'s

By The New York Times

RACHEL, Nev. — This speck of a town is little more than a trailer park, a gas station and a diner alongside State Route 375, a 100-mile stretch of secondary road through the scrub country of southern Nevada where there are often more cows on the blacktop than cars.

Yet Rachel has become a tourist destination for finders and seekers of U.F.O.'s, prompting the state to designate the road running by here as the Extraterrestrial Highway and to order signs along the thoroughfare.

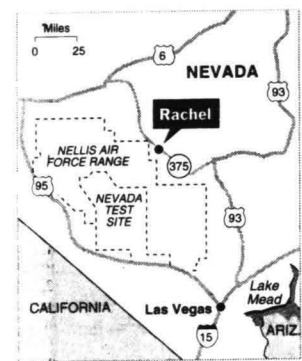
"It's kind of a tourist ploy," said Scott Magruder, spokesman for the Nevada Transportation Department, which gave the highway its new name after a similar effort faltered in the Legislature last year.

Many locals and visitors, however, are not so lighthearted about the subject. Seminars on flying saucers have been held here and tours frequently take to the rough side roads and barren hills to look for strange objects in the sky. Their tales range from those who say they have seen flying saucers or have psychic contact with aliens to those who do not know what they saw but reject conventional explanations.

The highway skirts a secret military test site called Area 51. Some believers in U.F.O.'s suspect that the United States Government is using the site to test captured alien spacecraft. But a more prosaic explanation for sightings attributed to the extraterrestrial is that they are actually flights by aircraft over the nearby Nellis Air Force Base.

Still, Glenn Campbell was intrigued enough to leave a job as a computer programmer in Boston and move to Rachel in January 1993, where he is the director of the Area 51 Research Center, which has a staff of one and operates out of a trailer surrounded by cattle skulls.

Mr. Campbell, who has written a



Rachel, Nev., is drawing tourists because of sightings of U.F.O.'s.

viewer's guide to the area and sells detailed maps of the Area 51 installation, discounts most of the wilder tales but believes that advanced aircraft of extra-worldly origin may be in the possession of the Government.

He is not happy, however, about the road's new name, fearing that tourists will inundate the area, unprepared either for the harsh desert or the vigilant security officers who are well known for arresting straying sightseers.

"It pulls down the credibility of the U.F.O. movement," he said of the designation. "It trivializes the serious issues here."

But few of the other 100 people who live here are worried about too many visitors. "Earthlings welcome," says a sign at the Little A'Le' Inn, a restaurant-motel-gift shop that sells items like Extraterrestrial Highway doormats and playing cards.

Dolls of bald, doe-eyed aliens hang on the walls, along with blurry pictures of lights in the sky and the engineering plans for a flying saucer. The blueprints are based on a description by Bob Lazar, whose assertion that he worked on captured alien spacecraft at Area 51 put Rachel on the map in 1989.

Pulitzer Prize winning Harvard doctor to speak at Beach UFO Conference

John Mack, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry at The Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his book "A Prince of Our Disorder" will be a featured speaker at the fourth annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference March 15-17th on Pensacola Beach.

Dr. Mack is the founding director of the Center for Psychology and Social Change at Harvard, and began investigating the UFO abduction phenomenon which led to his recent best selling book "Abductions: Human Encounters

with Aliens," hailed by the New York Times as "fascinating, suggestive and even inspiring" and described by The Boston Herald as "a transcendent, landmark work... an extraordinarily rich and strange mind expanding book."

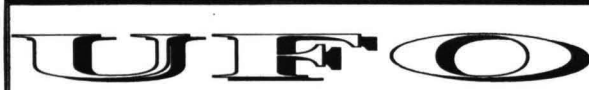
Conference Co-Director, Vicki Lyons commented on the rare public appearance of Dr. Mack, "Dr. Mack is impressed with the credibility of Project Awareness and its staff and although he rarely speaks at UFO Conferences, is making his second appearance with the Gulf Breeze Conference.

He spoke here in 1993 to a standing room only crowd and we expect that to happen again. Dr. Mack's remarkable body of data forced him to re-examine his beliefs. He has determined that science and spirituality can indeed co-exist," Lyons said.

Dr. Mack will share updates of his latest work in the field of alien abduction from all over the world as he discussed on "Oprah," "Prime Time Live," "48 Hours," and "CNN". He will also share a fascinating video tape of some extraordinary cases from his

recent work in Africa. Dr. Mack's lecture will be Friday night, March 15th, 6:45 - 8:15 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the Conference by purchasing individual lecture tickets beginning at \$10 or there are weekend packages available. For a complete free conference program guide about Dr. Mack's participation and all the other speakers, contact: Project Awareness at (904) 432-8888 or write to P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.



By Carole Baker

It was late on Saturday night, January 27th when Michele Dupre and her friend were driving home in West Pensacola. At about 11:45 p.m. the two friends saw an extremely bright shooting star in the sky close to Mariner Mall. After dropping her friend off, Michele was driving home, traveling east on Lillian Hwy. from 65th Ave. It was about 12:15 a.m. Sunday, 28th of January, 1996

when Michele saw a car coming toward her with its brights on. Temporarily blinded, she looked up toward the sky to try to clear her vision. What she saw in the sky to her north-east was a large, red-amber light. Thinking that it was just an image remaining from the car's bright headlight, she looked away and looked back again. The light was still there. It was approximately one inch

across at arm's length and was pulsating. "It pulsed five times," Michele told me. "Each time for about ten seconds."

"I slowed the car down and turned the radio off," Michele said. "I had rolled the window down and there was no noise coming from it at all." Michele went on to describe that she could see that the ball of orange-red light was, in fact, on one end of an oblong shaped object. "It looked shadowy in the sky, and as I drove along slowly it travelled with me," she told me.

Michele had a sighting last year, in May 1995. She has noticed that since then she has become hypersensitive to electricity and electromagnetic fields. "I feel really bad, really agitated with the storms in the summer," Michele stated. "also, if I go near

the TV or radio they get a lot of static on them and sometimes lights 'go bright' when I go near them." Michele has noticed that she has quite an effect on electrical equipment that she comes in contact with. She has also recalled a UFO related event from her childhood. Whether these effects are as a result of her UFO experience or not, Michele hopes to find out with further investigation.

If anyone else saw this object early on Sunday morning, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. For information on the Fourth Annual 1996 Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held at the Clarion Resort, Pensacola Beach March 15th-17th, call Project Awareness at 432-8888. Keep Looking Up!

TIMES, Washington, DC - March 17, 1996 CR: R. Forte

Florida town dubbed world's 'UFO Capital'

GULF BREEZE, Fla. — Alien beings, taunting earthlings with repeated overflights in saucers and other exotic space crafts, have chosen this wealthy seaside town at the tip of the Florida panhandle to provide clues of extraterrestrial life.

That's what top experts in unidentified flying objects say, prompting hundreds of believers to gather here this weekend for the fourth annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference.

"It's the only place in the country or in the world that has these sightings repeatedly," said Walt Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network.

INDIANA AGRI-NEWS, [City Unknown - Marion County], IN - March 1, 1996

Latest theory on cause of bent-stalk crop circle offered

ARLINGTON, Iowa (AP) — Ray and Elgene Kamper estimate 500 people have visited their eastern Iowa farm to see the crop circle. And each visitor has an explanation.

The explanations range from aliens to pranksters to meteorites.

And then there's W.C. Levensgood, whose hypothesis isn't as easy to understand — ion plasma vortices.

Levensgood of Grass Lake, Mich. and his Cambridge, Mass.-based research group collected soil and plant samples from the Kamper's rural Arlington farm, where a circle of bent corn stalks was discovered last August.

Levensgood has studied about 150 crop circles around the world.

His hypothesis is that the Arlington circle was caused by ion plasma vortices — collec-

tions of electronically charged particles high above the earth's surface. Lightning is an example of ionized plasma. Vortices refer to a swirling mass of air.

Levensgood said when pulled together by the earth's magnetic field, the ions become swirling masses that emit energy. When the vortices move to the earth and strike crops, the intense energy weakens the plant stalks, causing them to lie in the circular direction of the vortex, and parts of the plants are browned by the microwave-like energy, he said.

Christopher Church, an atmospheric physicist at Miami University in Ohio, said some rare cases of electronically charged tornadoes, which showed plasma-like discharges, have been documented.

Tim Burrack, who rents and farms Kam-

per's land, said he had not seen the Levensgood report. But he agrees with Levensgood that the formation could not have been manmade. He said there were no tracks and "no evidence of anyone being there."

The center of the 55-foot-diameter circle also made Burrack think it could not have been a hoax: "It wasn't dried and it wasn't burned. It was browned," he said.

Ray Kamper estimates 500 people came to see the crop circle, and as they left, Kamper and his wife asked them what they thought caused it.

"I suppose we got about 500 different opinions," Kamper said.

CITIZEN, Tucson, AZ - March 29, 1996 CR: S. Atlanta

NEWSMAKERS

UFO museum to check out metal

The Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. — A mysterious piece of metal marked with intricate lines has been brought to Roswell's UFO Museum, where administrators say it may be proof that an alien space ship crashed nearby almost 50 years ago.

The piece, which is framed, was brought to the museum Sunday by a local resident whose identity has not been made public.

"From the information we have, this is from a man who was stationed here and was part of the crew that helped pick it up," said Max Littell of the museum. "We are not saying one way or another that this is what it is, but we are going to do everything we can to find out."

For nearly half a century, a mysterious crash has fueled speculation about aliens in the New Mexico desert, Cold War secrecy and a government cover-up.

The Air Force has said the crash was probably a balloon launched as part of Project Mogul, a highly classified effort to detect Soviet nuclear weapons, using balloons that carried radar reflectors and sensors.

But a General Accounting Office report on the incident released last summer triggered new speculation, not because it shed new light on the 1947 crash, but because it showed that documents about the crash were destroyed.

Museum officials said photos of the piece of metal will be sent to a man who said he saw debris from the crash when he was 12 years old. Afterward, Littell said, the museum plans to take a piece of the material to a metallurgist to determine what it is.

"If some metallurgist says there is nothing in the book like this, and he has got all of his degrees and is an expert source, then we are home free. That is it," said Littell.



John is reaching for the stars

by PAT GRIFFITHS

STUDENTS enrolling for evening classes at Redditch NEW College may have noticed an unusual subject on the timetable.

For retired West Midlands policeman John Hanson is launching a series of lectures on unidentified flying objects.

John is the Worcestershire agent for Quest International, an organisation set up to monitor sightings of unexplained phenomena in the sky. Now he plans to share some of the information he has gathered with students.

Among recent case histories he will be relating is that of a young woman who was driving to Netherton shortly before midnight last July.

Blue lights

Sarah Kelly drove along the dual carriageway to Bromsgrove, then north west towards Hagley, Stourbridge and the Black Country.

She claims she was approaching Clent when blue lights flashing above the hills drew her eye. To her astonishment, she saw a black diamond-shaped object spinning round in the sky.

She sped back to Netherton where she climbed with her father up a nearby church tower to get a better look. His scepticism evaporated when he, too, spotted the craft hovering overhead.

Three other witnesses confirmed they had also seen the object.

In May a woman reported a pulsating scallop-shaped craft in the sky over Longbridge.

Visible for about ten minutes, it was seen at Crabbs Cross, Redditch.

And on a night in January, a disc-shaped object with red pulsing lights was seen in the sky above Stirchley. It vanished and re-appeared in Cumbria minutes later.

John, aged 49, treats all reports of sightings as genuine. He keeps an open mind about UFOs,

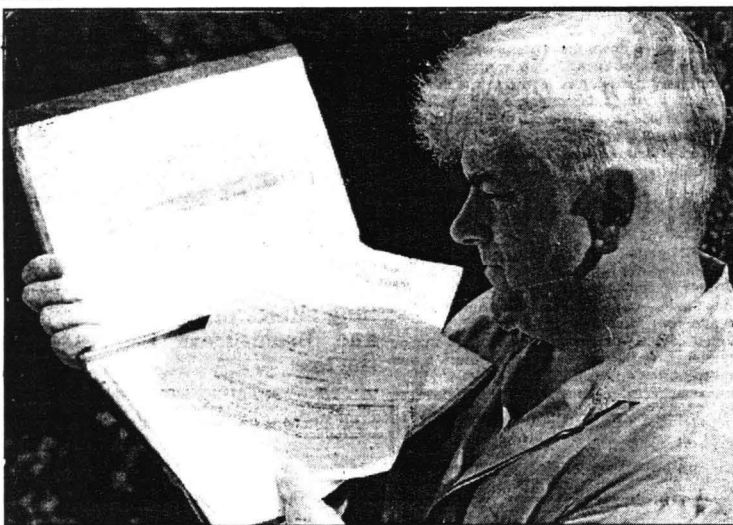
neither believing or disbelieving in them.

He is setting out to build a comprehensive record of UFO sightings. By collecting all the details at his home near Barnet Green, studying and comparing them with other reported sightings, he aims to compile a vast library of information.

He also links up with other Quest agents in Worcester and Shrewsbury. He said: "Too often, people have no chance to discuss what they have seen for fear of ridicule."

"One man was with about 15 others on a pub car park in Yardley when he saw a disc-shaped craft. It happened in the 1970s and he still has nightmares about it today."

● UFO spotters can talk to John on 0121 447 7091.



● John holds an official report form for UFO sightings (c27348).

The Y files

Readers back up our UFO mystery

REPORTS of UFOs hovering above York have led to calls from baffled readers who also claim to have witnessed them.

The Yorkshire Evening Press has been inundated with calls following Tuesday's report that bright "flying saucer-shaped" objects had been seen in the York area.

Paul Mortimer, 32, of Burton Stone Lane, York, saw a number of unexplained shining lights as he drove from Selby to York at about 4.50pm last Friday.

"I saw one very bright light quite high in the sky as I drove towards Escrick," said Mr Mortimer, a self-employed signwriter. "A second later it had dropped vertically to more or less the height of the tree-line. Then I lost sight of it."

"Further towards Escrick, I saw a light in the shape of an upturned flying saucer, but at a slight tilt. It seemed to glow. It began to flicker and, as it did, two smaller lights emerged from either side. Then they all vanished."

"People thought I was making it up until it was reported in the Press."

Three "flickering" lights were spotted above the A19 between 4.30pm and 5pm the same afternoon by Margaret Batty, of Barlby, Selby, and her daughter Ruth, of York, who works at Selby District Council's housing department.

"We were looking east when we both saw these lights," said Margaret. "They were there one minute and gone the next."

Caroline Greaves, 26, of Leeman Road, along with a friend and her three children, saw three lights in the direction of Clifton at about 5.15pm last Friday.

"They were brighter than fluorescent lights," she said. "There was a big one, a medium one and a small one, like a mother duck and her ducklings."

"We saw them coming towards us for about three minutes and then they were stationary for another four minutes. There was no noise."

"I wasn't frightened, I was very calm about it. I have an open mind on the subject of UFOs, but I now believe that something is going to happen - and happen soon."

At 4.50pm last Friday, David Clayden, of Wydale Road, Osbaldwick, saw three "flying saucer-shaped" objects about 500ft up in the sky above his home.

Five minutes earlier, Steve Aldous and his two daughters saw three lights near Long Marston.

● If you have had a close encounter with a UFO or a brush with the paranormal, contact Simon Ritchie on York 01904 653051 ext 437.

Was UFO sighting just pie in the sky?

HAVE you seen any strange objects in the sky above Kingston recently?

If so, you could help solve an elderly woman's mystery.

Gladys Scott, 74, is convinced she saw a UFO out of the window of her Windsor Road home, two weeks ago.

She looked up at about 6.30pm, on Wednesday, September 6, to see a large black object with jagged edges hanging in the sky.

Screaming

As she watched, something dropped from it and then, after a couple of minutes, they both faded.

She said: "I was lying in bed watching TV and I glanced up at the sky and thought 'whatever's that?'"

"It didn't frighten me at the time, but I had an awful nightmare and I woke up screaming."

Mrs Scott asked a few friends if they saw anything, then told her daughter Pauline White, when she returned from holiday last week.

Mrs White, from Chestnut Road, contacted the *Informer* to find out if anyone else had spotted the mystery object, or had a rational explanation.

She said: "Mum wouldn't have made it up. She said to me 'I know I'm not going doolally'."

They tried to report what Mrs Scott had seen, but could find no organisation dealing with



GLADYS: Saw UFO possible supernatural sightings.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said no government department had ever been set up to investigate the phenomenon, because they had yet to be convinced any exist.

But he did add that when people had investigated suspicious sightings, a rational explanation, usually aircraft or lights in the sky, had been found.

● Have you ever seen anything unexplainable in the sky? Or did you see the same weird shape as Mrs Scott? Write to: The *Informer*, 2 High Street, Teddington, TW11 8EW.

KENTISH EXPRESS, Ashford, England - Sept. 14, 1995

Mystery lights over the Channel spark inquiry

A ROLVENDEN author has launched a top level European Parliament investigation into a UFO sighting over the Channel.

Derek Sheffield, 66, a former printing consultant of Regent Street, researched and wrote a report for ratification on unidentified flying phenomena after the sighting by hundreds of independent witnesses five years ago.

The fast-moving triangular lights were tracked by radar, but the Ministry of Defence denied any knowledge of the incident.

Security

He sent the European Parliamentary question to Brussels two years ago and it will finally be considered by the Energy, Research and Technology committee with a recommendation that the EC should fund a permanent UFO tracking centre.

He has established that the mysterious lights and cones of light were detected by the NATO Air Defence Ground Environment.

The Belgian Air Force scrambled two F-16 interceptor aircraft and achieved radar lock-on, but lost contact five miles from Dover.

The unidentified target was travelling towards British airspace at speeds exceeding 1,000 knots.

He wants to know why the Minis-

try of Defence refused to comment because it was not deemed to be a threat to national security and by what premise that decision was made.

Three years later, Kent journalist Carol Davies, 46, was driving with her boyfriend on the A2 near Canterbury when they saw a huge formation of lights.

She says a beam of light shot out from underneath and it disappeared.

Then they saw it in the Ashford direction "travelling almost faster than the eye could track, stopping dead and then doing extraordinary manoeuvres for about 25 minutes".

When her account was published and authenticated by 30 independent first-hand witnesses, Derek Sheffield was intrigued by its similarity to the sighting in 1990.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former chairman of NATO's military committee finds it "a very convincing story" and has informed Mr Sheffield that if Belgian radar was tracking the lights, the MOD would be fully aware.

Mr Sheffield is hoping to publish a factual account of both sightings entitled *A Deadly Concealment* by late autumn.

He is hoping to address the European Parliament when the document is considered.

BACKSTAGE

CHRISTOPHER WINSOR



The danger is, you start talking knowledgeably about small gray alien beings and space-traveling, seven-foot lizards, and people will think you're dangerously under-medicated, or just free on a day pass. Otherwise, they'll be forced to assume you're a saucer-head. (That's "Ufologist" to you, buddy.)

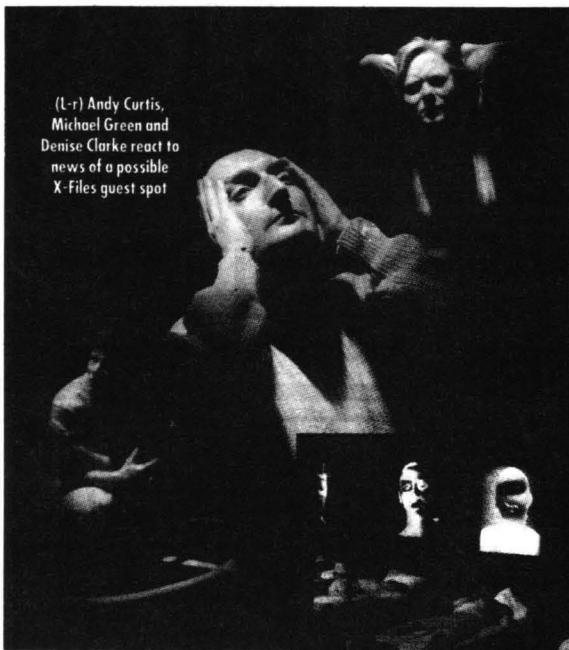
Either that, or they'll figure you're that equally (inter)stellar creature, a Yellow Rabbit.

Calgary-based performance nutters One Yellow Rabbit know all about things that go bump in the night. The troupe is bringing *Alien Bait* — their theatrical investigation of the apparently prevalent and gut-wrenching trauma of alien-abductees — to the Factory Theatre this week.

Judging from the tearsheets, the show was well received last fall when it played in Scotland, as well as in the Rabbits' own hole. Critics were impressed by the company's in-depth research into the abductee phenomenon, and were especially hard hit by the profound and unsettling compassion invoked by the actors' portrayals of these unfortunates.

"You'd have to be a mountain not to be moved by some of them," admits performer/choreographer Denise Clarke. "To be honest, I started this project quite skeptical. But as Harvard psychiatrist John Mack [who has interviewed nearly 100 UFO abductees] says, it doesn't really matter if anyone else believes it. These

THEATRE
Loving the aliens



(L-r) Andy Curtis, Michael Green and Denise Clarke react to news of a possible X-Files guest spot

people believe it. Their trauma is real."

Alien Bait's focus on the abductee experience emerged from the troupe's varied reading and conference-going, as well as other more unusual character-creating tools, such as regressive hypnosis.

working, I began to see the show as a kind of meditation on the loneliness of these individuals. I don't know about aliens, but I do know about loneliness — it became one of the organizing principles of the piece."

Alien Bait has two sets of characters — four so-called alien abduction "experts" and four abductees. Each actor performs one of each. (This doubling, in the hands of capable OYR vets, gives rise to the possibility of some super acting turns.) The characters have gathered at a UFO convention to explore the topic at hand. The experts, in their bickering, turf-warring, egghead-careerist way; the abductees as survivors seeking consolation in their shared alien-nation.

"We've tried to cover all the bases," continues Brooker, "touching on things like false memory syndrome, which is often used by the therapeutic community to explain away these symptoms. But by the same token, we've tried to make it palatable — we're not on a high-art trip here."

This is the same crew, after all, whose "theatrical investigation" into Holocaust-denier James Keegstra's head led to the hit satirical-musical *Ilsa, Queen Of The Nazi Love Camp*. The company has also

performed its *Tears Of A Dinosaur* and *The Erotic Irony Of Old Glory* here, as well collaborating with Crow's Theatre on the twice-mounted *Serpent Kills*.

Alien Bait promises to be another fascinating expression of the One Yellow Rabbit house style, which Brooker describes as a kind of minimalist, story-driven, movement-oriented performance theatre. "This show is actually very simply done," he says. "Of course, there are the few attendant bells and whistles that go along with theatrical production, a few slides, etc., as well as a great sound environment by Richard McDowell. But

PREVIEW
ALIEN BAIT

Featuring Denise Clarke, Andy Curtis, Michael Green and Elizabeth Stepkowski. Written by Blake Brooker and Michael Green. Directed by Blake Brooker. Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. March 12-24, \$10.75-\$22.50. 504-9971.

we're a chamber group really. My players are performing monsters, who just love to play."

The troupe's physical horseplay is overseen by Clarke, who recently choreographed the big Sondheim musical for Can Stage. The movement in *Alien Bait* is "far removed from dance," she says. "It's much more into the realm of the small, the mundane realities."

It's that focus on the "small," that emphasis on detail, as well as an overall economy of word and deed, that makes watching OYR's efforts such a joy.

"We believe we just can't afford to waste any moment on stage," says Brooker.

Would that other theatre companies were even half as stingy. ☼

Couple take video of mysterious lights

DID THEY SEE UFO?



Caught on camera: The unexplained trail of lights recorded on film



Mel and Julia Donovan return to the site where the objects appeared

Could this picture be proof that life does exist on other planets? These mysterious bright lights were captured on video camera by Mel Donovan, who believes they are UFOs.

Mel, 38, and his wife Julia, 35, had returned to their home in Moor Common, Lane End, when they saw a bizarre triangle of light composed of three golden balls.

Mel grabbed his camera to record the scene but one disappeared.

"I was sober as a judge," he told The Star. "It could have been three aeroplanes, but I have yet to see three aeroplanes able to stay still in the sky and emit such bright light."

"I am not saying they were aliens, I just don't know what they were," added the puzzled Mel.

The film director and his wife witnessed the so-far unexplained phenomenon on Saturday night.

They parked their car and walked round the side of the house where they were confronted with the three UFOs glowing in a triangle formation over Marlow.

Julia took the children into the house while Mel watched for a while and then rushed to get his video camera.

The video film shows two lights, one of which moves closer towards the other. One stays bright while the other dances towards it and then fades away.

The soundtrack records Mel's reactions as he suffers the cold night to get the rare shots.

The pictures are now being sent to UFO-spotting

EXPERTS are to study pictures of strange lights over south Bucks, as Marianne Sumner reports.

organisations. Marcus Walker, who writes for Encounters Magazine, said: "It does seem rather unusual. The last time I had anyone report anything like this was a long, long time ago."

Dick Thurbin, of the British Airways control tower at Wycombe Air Park, Booker, said there were no unusual aircraft there that night. He said the runway had closed before 6pm.

A Home Office spokesman said: "We are not aware of anything that has caused us to carry out an air investigation."

UFOs are seen over Taunton

TWO unidentified flying objects have been sighted from Taunton's Priorswood housing estate.

A man in his mid-30s, who does not want to be named, reported the UFOs to SUFORIN, the Society for UFO research and investigation.

Sue Hembury-Kellow, SUFORIN's Stoke St Gregory-based director of investigations, said: "His wife spotted them as she went out into the back garden."

"He went out and saw two objects. They were oval, quite bulky, each with 25 to 30 multi-coloured lights — green, blue, red and yellow."

"They were lower than a normal aircraft, looked very big and moved more slowly. They appeared to be going south to north."

"The man saw the object for about 15 seconds and his wife for around half a minute. They agree about what they saw and are confident that they were not aircraft."

Mrs Hembury-Kellow said investigations had shown that no authorised flights took place at the time of the sighting — about 9pm on Thursday last week.

She wants anybody who may have seen something similar to contact a 24-hour hotline on 01823 491068.

CHORLEY GUARDIAN, Lancs., England - Nov. 1, 1995

Strange lights over Adlington

THE recent sighting of what may or may not have been a UFO over Chorley was by no means the first.

In 1984, the Guardian opened a special hotline after reports of a mysterious golden ball being seen hovering over Adlington shortly before 9pm on March 26th.

Several baffled residents also rang saying they had seen something 'bright and inexplicable' in the sky at the same time.

But the most detailed account came from Coppull housewife Mrs Joan Lawrenson who watched the object for 25 minutes while journeying from Manchester to her home.

She recalled, "I had just visited my son in hospital and as I got onto the M61 at about 8.45pm I saw a line of lights in the sky which seemed to be over Chorley."

"It looked at first like a large aircraft all lit up, but it seemed to hang there - an aeroplane would have moved," she noted.

Another sighting was recorded by a Chorley resident whose front garden gave him an uninterrupted view of the Nab.

He claimed to have seen a silver-coloured saucer-like object land

on the Nab and then watched a number of similar coloured 'people' moving around there at such a speed they could not possibly have been human!

Mysterious twin crop circles also appeared out of the blue in a Walton-le-Dale family's garden.

The strange circles measuring 5ft and 8ft in diameter turned up as the last piece of comet Shoemaker Levy smashed into the planet Jupiter causing galactic explosions!

Once investigated, most UFOs turn out to be nothing of the kind. Some are probably hallucinations or hoaxes, others are given likely explanations.

But for one in five there has been no official explanation yet.

For example, a formation of gleaming discs which Kenneth Arnold reported seeing over the Rocky Mountains in North West America on June 24 1947, were said to be travelling at nearly twice the speed of sound - and that was long before the sound barrier had been broken.

He was alone in his small aeroplane when he spotted nine 'saucers' flying at about 1,900kph and his report became the first official UFO sighting.

Have you had an X-file X-perience?
Call 01257 264911 (daytime)
or 01257 241906 (evenings and weekends)

Big UFO came close to me NT man tells

By GERALDINE GREEN

A Territorian said yesterday he was still in shock after seeing and photographing what he described as a 30 m-long UFO.

A 46-year-old cattle stationhand, who did not wish to be named, said: "I wouldn't spin this yarn - I thought I was seeing things."

He said the UFO was only about 45 m away from him.

His claimed sighting on Sunday night follows reports of four bright orange lights over Palmerston 10 days ago.

The stationhand said he was checking fences on Ruby Downs Station, 200 km south-west of Darwin, when he saw the mystery object. It was about 7.20 pm.

The stationhand said: "There were only a few clouds in the sky that night; it was a relatively clear evening.

"I climbed out of my ute to open a gate when I noticed the cattle were acting strangely.

"They were all just standing there really passively - even a herd of brumbies, which usually bolt when you approach them.

"I felt a bit of a rushing wind and heard a sound like a willy willy.

"I turned around and there it was - a UFO."

The hand said the "cylindrical" object was about 45 m away and "hovered silently" two tree heights above the ground. He said the UFO was a "darkish, grayish color" and was about 30 m long with a "box-like thing underneath".

The stationhand compared it with a Zeppelin airship.

"But it didn't have the ridges characteristic of a Zeppelin," he said.

He said the box underneath the UFO remained still, while the cylindrical part above rotated steadily.

"There were no ridges in it - it looked clear and highly polished, but because it was spinning it appeared to be a dull matt glaze," he said.

The UFO had no lights, aerials or windows.

The stationhand said he noticed a "fuzzy smell", like hot metal.

He said he stood looking at the UFO for two minutes.

"I was just trying to work out what it was," he said.

"I knew it was not a cloud formation - it had been manufactured.

"It could have been something the RAAF wasn't telling us about or a genuine UFO.

"If I was threatened I would have grabbed a rifle I keep in the car and would have used the bugger if I needed to.

"But the cattle weren't frightened; they acted as though it was just another everyday event."

The stationhand said he went to the utility and started it.

He then grabbed a throwaway camera he kept for "interesting things" and held it out of the window, taking a couple of photos.

He would not allow the NT News to develop the film.

The stationhand said: "I looked back a second time while I was driving and it was still there; on my third look back it had disappeared."

Ruby Downs owner Jo Groves said yesterday he would support the stationhand's story, although he hadn't seen anything resembling the UFO himself.

"He's a sensible man," Mr Groves said. "I'd vouch for him to tell the truth."

KIDDERMINSTER SHUTTLE, Worcs., England - Oct. 26, 1995

Expert probe into UFO sightings

By SARAH COUSIN

UFO experts are investigating claims of sightings by people in two areas of Kidderminster on the same night.

A family on the Spennells estate say they saw a brightly-coloured oval shape moving over their home on Saturday night.

A man from nearby Offmore Farm also reported seeing something similar to the British UFO Research Association.

Tim Emanuel, of Yellowhammer Court, said he and his partner Sandra, son Darren, a neighbour, and an 11-year-old boy saw the strange object at 7.45pm.

He said it was about two or three miles away and they used binoculars to see it clearly.

"Its overall colour was turquoise for the top half with a metallic silver lower half and what appeared to be about six square windows with bright white light shining out," he said.

He and Sandra chased after the strange object in their car as far as Kinner but lost it.

Mr Emanuel, a retired teacher, checked with Birmingham Airport who told him they did not know of any airships in the area at that time.

"It was definitely something strange. It was nothing like a plane or anything else recognisable," he said.

Gloria Dixon, co-ordinator of BUFORA, who is investigating Mr Emanuel's sighting, said she had also spoken to a man from Offmore Farm, who had seen the "back end" of the object, which he said several of his neighbours had also seen.

"They definitely saw something unusual, but it is too early to say whether it was a UFO.

"Ninety-five per cent of sightings are mis-interpretations of something which is quite normal," she said.

But she said the sightings would be investigated and said the first thing was to establish whether there had been any airships in the area at the time, and to collate written descriptions of what people saw.

POST, Birmingham, England - Oct. 7, 1995

Hollywood vigil for unidentified visitors

If Darren Langley won a jackpot on the National Lottery he would like to buy himself the time to indulge his fascination with Unidentified Flying Objects.

Darren, aged 20, from Hollywood, Birmingham, is a member of the British UFO Research Association and has been interested in the phenomena since he heard a radio programme four years ago.

The Staffordshire University student subscribes to four publications about UFOs, attends conferences with fellow Ufologists and last year did a project for Solihull College on the subject.

This is quite a passion for someone who is not even sure if they exist.

"I keep an open mind," he said. "A UFO is any phenomenon that can't be identified. Sometimes people think they have seen UFOs, but they haven't. People often mistake Jupiter for a UFO, but that's misinterpretation.

"If something can't be explained as an aeroplane or a star or a planet or anything else then it's classed as a UFO."

So has he ever seen one? "No," said Darren and though he casts his eyes to the skies



Jo Ind talks to a Midland UFO spotter

frequently he is not a member of an organised UFO-spotting group.

"I did have a very vivid dream that I was walking along a street near my house in Stoke on Trent when a UFO flew straight past and started doing these bizarre manoeuvres.

"The strange thing was that one of the people I live with said he had had a dream that night in which he was flying around in a test plane."

What interests Darren is the interpretation of UFOs. One theory is that they are the technology of aliens. Another is that they are natural phenomena and Darren is still keeping an open mind as to which interpretation he prefers.

At the moment he is interested in what is known as the Roswell Incident, when some-

thing landed in the New Mexico Desert in July 1947.

At the time the press, including the London Times, reported that a flying saucer had landed. It was believed there had been alien beings on board.

Soon afterwards the US Air Force said it was an air balloon. Jessie Marcell, a member of the US Air Force sent to assess the wreckage, initially said it was a flying saucer. Later he faced the press saying it was a balloon but, before his death in the 70s, he said it could not have been a balloon after all.

A film which some believe to have been an autopsy of the aliens who landed was recently discovered and screened on Channel 4 and at a conference in Sheffield which Darren attended.

It showed short, bald beings with oversized heads and six fingers and six toes. "People at the conference were either saying it's definitely genuine or definitely fake," said Darren. "I'm keeping an open mind."

"It's possible that they were time travellers from the future. It's also possible that the film's a hoax. There's always people who want to cash in on these things. That makes Ufologists quite weary."

Darren believes that his interest in UFOs has changed his perception on other aspects of life.

"I like to think that I've got quite a wide perception," he said. "It makes me more open-minded. It means I don't necessarily believe exactly what people are saying. I'm not saying I don't believe them but I think about what their perception might be.

"It makes you quite philosophical about life. I'm not a very religious person, it could be a substitute for that.

"It's like the modern mythology. Ufology isn't factual. It's basically down to opinion and how people perceive certain events."

Darren, who is studying electronic media at university, says he sometimes thinks it would be interesting to make a career out of his interest in UFOs.

"It's not really a professional thing," he says. "Only a couple of people make a living from it and they are basically authors."

"It would be an interesting field to work in, but if I did I'd have to develop other interests to balance it, otherwise it's too easy to get stuck down a certain alley. It's important to keep an open mind."



THE URBAN SPACEGRAN: Evelyn Field now knows what she saw 30 years ago

Gran's secret

GRANDMOTHER Evelyn Field has kept a secret for 30 years fearing people would think she was mad.

But the Ministry of Defence admission that an unidentified flying object was spotted over Luton in 1962 has convinced Mrs Field to spill the beans too.

Mrs Field, of Staveley Road, was delighted by the Herald and Post report last week which revealed the MoD had known about a UFO seen over Luton.

She said: "I too saw a UFO about the same time. I was hanging out my washing in the back garden when I saw this circular object hovering in the sky.

"It must have hovered above me for about a minute or two then shot off really quickly in a westerly direction. I couldn't believe my eyes."

Mrs Field never mentioned the sighting until her husband Henry said their neighbour, who later died of cancer, had also spotted the craft.

She said: "I was too frightened to tell my mother-in-law, but when my husband said our neighbour had seen it and described the same object, I believed I had seen it."

Mrs Field said she remembers a week following the event a man in Wellington Street reported the same sighting to a local newspaper.

She added: "I never mentioned this until I saw this official report. I am so relieved the Government has admitted this because no-one can make fun of me. Now I know I wasn't seeing things."

The Public Records Act had shelved for 30 years the sighting by a motorist which was investigated by RAF police.

Theory on sighting is dismissed

MYSTERY still surrounds Norwich's spooky UFO sightings today after the Royal British Legion dismissed one possible theory.

The strange object which zig-zagged its way across the city's skies is still baffling UFO experts a week after it appeared.

But one possible answer to the mystery has been ruled out.

An Evening News reader said it could have been caused by the giant poppy projected by laser on to the side of the Castle Museum last week. It was suggested the beam could have reflected from low cloud.

But the Legion said there was no way the poppy laser, part of a national awareness campaign, was to blame.

Roger Perry, president of the Norfolk branch, said: "The whole beam was trained on the castle wall and nowhere else. As far as I'm aware there is no glass in that wall for the beam to reflect off."

Meanwhile, more people have reported strange goings-on in the skies above Norfolk after a week of reports in the Evening News. The county's UFO society, which was already being flooded with dozens of new members, is getting even more calls now.

► UFO sightings over the years

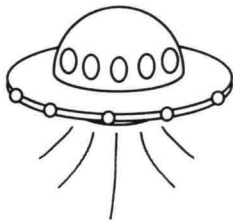


Is there anybody out there

Unexpected Friends On high

A film of a biscuit-shaped object over the skies of Mile Cross earlier this month refuelled the controversy over UFOs. But reports of strange visions over the skies of East Anglia are nothing new. The Evening News has reported hundreds of sightings during the last 40 years. And while the style of drawing might change the emphatic tone of the UFO spotter seems to have stayed just the same. **STEVE SILK** goes time travelling deep into the newspaper archives.

► UFO ONE, OCTOBER 1953



THE QUEEN had celebrated her coronation and the Brits had conquered Everest.

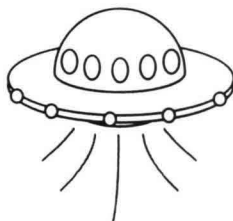
Meanwhile, the Evening News reported how several reliable witnesses saw a "strange lighted object whizzing over the city sky".

Mr F W Potter, of South Park Avenue, sees the bright yellow light through his telescope.

"It did not rotate but kept the same portion of the dome towards the telescope until it changed its angular course," he explained.

Then to clarify, he added: "It gave me the chance to visualise another of the apertures that previously had been hidden from view."

► UFO TWO, NOVEMBER 1969



ASTRONAUT Neil Armstrong was taking a giant leap for mankind.

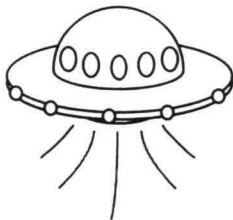
And back in Norwich a small step was being taken by a man on Ipswich Road. S Patterson, of Bowman Road, Norwich, reported a bright green object which changed colour to violet as he

watched.

"Over the past three years I have seen well over 200 objects like these and similar," he said in a letter to the paper.

"I would just like to add I have good health, good eyesight, keen hearing and do not suffer from delusions or the like."

► UFO THREE, MAY 1977



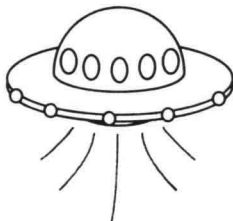
PUNK rockers were busy being noisy and a silent UFO was spotted over the rooftops near Dereham Market Place.

"Travelling across the sky was this flying saucer," said Stewart Bennett, of Toftwood, near Dereham.

A red light was pulsating below the object which he described as being about the size of a low flying jet fighter.

"It was like a huge model being held up in the sky. I could see a row of windows or portholes along the top."

► UFO FOUR, DECEMBER 1980



THE EIGHTIES were a poor decade for UFOs in Norfolk as far as illustrations go.

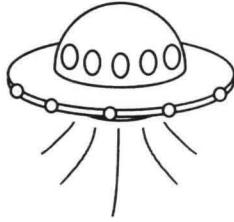
But Suffolk kept the East Anglian flag

flying with an amazing tale from Rendlesham Forest, near the Woodbridge airbase.

A group of Servicemen said they had an encounter with an alien space craft — and their evidence was so compelling a book called "A Cosmic Conspiracy" was published.

"I do not think there was ever any doubt that something happened which we cannot explain," said USAF spokesman Captain Victor Warzinski.

► UFO FIVE, NOVEMBER 1995

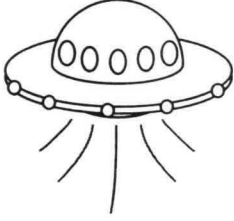


A QUIET night in for painter and decorator Glen Webster until he spots a strange biscuit-shaped object out of his window.

Reaching for the camcorder all set up for Bonfire night celebrations, he records 60 seconds of what he is convinced was a UFO shooting across the Mile Cross sky. Our story prompts a rash of other sightings across Norfolk from Freethorpe to Bawdeswell.

UFO boffins are still examining the film.

► UFO SIX, ???



LOUGHBOROUGH ECHO, Leics., England - Oct. 11, 1995

Was the flying blue ball a UFO?

IT WAS a night like any night. Or so security guard Geoff Pollard thought as he patrolled the grounds of Hawker Siddeley Switchgear Ltd., early one morning.

Then, about 1am, it happened. From out of nowhere a strange blue ball appeared in the cold night sky.

Mr Pollard, of Sharples Road, Loughborough, told the *Echo*: "It was travelling at a terrific speed and was heading towards Leicester."

He added: "I don't believe in UFOs but I've never seen anything like that, ever. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up."

A security guard for 17 years, Mr Pollard said the unidentified flying object appeared to be hovering over Barrow-on-Soar, before vanishing from sight.

"There was no noise, there was no tail, it just looked round and more or less solid," he said.

Mr Pollard said the unidentified flying object appeared to be hovering over Barrow-on-Soar, before vanishing from sight. "There was no noise, there was no tail, it just looked round and more or less solid," he said.

EASTERN EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - Nov. 13, 1995

Fantastic lights prove frightening sight for driver

STRANGE tales of unidentified objects continue to come flying into the Evening News after our front-page story on Saturday.

Last week we told how motorist Nick Colman was tracked by a mysterious light on a road near Aylsham last Friday.

The same night, a motorist called Great Yarmouth police after seeing a spinning disc in the sky over Freethorpe.

And then on Saturday Glenn

MYSTERY OBJECT: the flying disc filmed by Glenn Webster



Webster from Mile Cross showed his amazing film of a weird biscuit-shaped object near his house, recorded on Friday night.

His minute of camcorder footage has been sent off to UFO experts

who admit to being baffled by the zig-zagging, quick-moving flying disc.

Now security engineer James Mason, 21, of Angel Road, has described how he was driving back from King's Lynn at about 4.50pm on the previous Friday when a blue light appeared in his rear view mirror as he passed through Bawdeswell, near Dereham.

Thinking it was a police car, he pulled over and got out of his car,

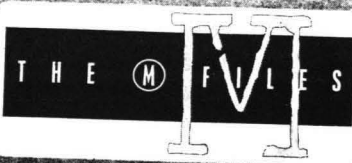
only to discover the light had gone.

"Then my car lights went off and on again. I looked up and realised this light had gone overhead and was about 200 yards in front of me and about 100ft in the air.

"It wasn't flashing it was spinning, it looked like a Catherine Wheel.

Mr Mason added: "I was so freaked out I turned back and came back on a different road and then went down to Bethel Street Police Station to report it."

All jokes aside — just who is responsible for CROP CIRCLES?



ONE day the crop field is a gently swaying carpet of wheat, stretching uninterrupted across the land.

The next it is dramatically scarred, with large, unnaturally-shaped regular circles carved into the crop, leaving rings of flattened wheat lying on the ground...

Who is responsible for the circles?

How have they been created so intricately? What do they stand for and where have they come from?

These are just some of the questions surrounding the puzzling phenomenon of crop circles, which has proved to be one of the greatest mysteries of modern times.

CCs in their most common shape of one or two complete, inter-joined circles, have appeared all over the world in recent years.

But this summer's spate of crop circles in southern England has revealed a far more sophisticated set of shapes which range from concentric rings, shaped like Catherine wheels, complex spirals, to multiple circles, scorpion patterns and petal designs. There are many theories for the existence of CCs, from whirlwinds to magnetic earth movements.

Invisible vortex

Even Druids and the occult have been considered responsible — but the most widely-held theory is that CCs are the impressions of UFOs, landing in the countryside at night.

A variety of these ever-growing explanations was offered when the first crop circle in Leicestershire appeared in July 1988.

A circular area of flattened wheat, about 25 yards across, was discovered in a field between Gartree Road and Copse Close, Oadby.

It was surrounded by a single ring apparently scored into the vegetation, with a triangular formation of three smaller circles nearby.

International experts were intrigued by what

meteorologist Dr Terence Meaden said was the most northerly crop circle found in Europe at the time.

Aerial archaeologist Jim Pickering said it could not have been caused by humans because the shapes were so regular — and there were no tracks leading from the field.

NASA radar expert Pat Delagado and researcher Colin Andrews said the circle was not a hoax, as the patterns matched up to almost 400 they had seen. Mr Delagado, a retired electro-mechanical design engineer, said: "Any natural force could not create such intriguing patterns."

But Clive Potter, county spokesman for the British UFO Research Association, said: "We believe these rings have nothing whatsoever to do with UFOs."

Despite the denial, belief that the circles were caused by a flying saucer was fuelled when a lay preacher told of his close encounter with a bright light, which had hovered over east Leicester less than 24 hours before the crop circle was first seen.

Scientists later said the circles were the result of an invisible vortex caused by a small whirlwind, which had deepened and touched the earth, flattening the crops.



GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES: NASA expert Pat Delagado, right, looking at the Oadby crop circle with Colin Andrews and Derick Buttress

MoD files reveal new UFO cases

by Tim Kelsey and David Leppard

DOZENS of incidents involving unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have been revealed by Ministry of Defence files kept secret for decades. They show the government took such reports seriously and wanted to allay public fears about claims of visiting alien aircraft.

One document reports that two RAF planes were sent to intercept UFOs over the Strait of Dover in April 1957. Two objects were seen, but the Javelin jets were unable to track them on their radar. Fighter Command told ministers it believed the objects were other RAF jets on exercise.

In another case the previous year, an RAF Venom jet was sent to intercept a UFO moving at very high speed picked up by radar. The pilot saw nothing, but two other aircraft scrambled in pursuit made "a momentary contact".

In 1963, an object that looked like a flying saucer was seen hovering by a hangar at RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, by two airmen. An MoD file records that "as they watched they saw a trap door in the upper part slowly open". An internal inquiry dismissed the incident as "a piece of youthful high spirits".

The alleged sightings are detailed in files spanning more than a decade which have been uncovered at the Public Records Office. They were quietly released by Lord Henley, a defence minister, at the end of last year.

M-file

Crop circle sightings over the past five years:

WHETSTONE: August 2, 1990.

Two six feet wide, perfectly-symmetrical circles appeared in the cornfields of farmers Sandra and Anthony Herbert.

MELTON: August 10, 1990.

Two circles, approximately 20 feet in diameter were found in a wheat field near Leicester Road.

COUNTRESTHORPE: July 2, 1992.

Discovery of a crop circle, inner ring 70 feet across, with tightly flattened wheat.

LOUGHBOROUGH: July 7, 1993.

Crop circle appeared in a field near Charley Knoll.

SHEPshed: August 9, 1993.

Several crop circles appeared in a field.

COUNTYWIDE: July 20, 1994.

Call for crop-circle sightings to be reported to the East Midlands branch of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, led by Tony Caldicott.

LOUGHBOROUGH: Mid-July, 1994.

Circle discovered at Black Hill Farm, was exposed as a fake by the centre. Young farmers later confessed.

UFO sighted in town

STRANGE things were afoot in the skies over Ilkeston at the weekend — according to locals.

Several people reported seeing an unidentified flying object hovering above the town between 2.30 and 3am on Saturday morning.

Revellers and staff leaving Kristies Nightclub claim to have seen a large, yellow triangular-shaped object glowing in the sky for about 30 minutes.

This was confirmed by three men working the nightshift at Citylink Parcels depot, on Quarry Hill Industrial Estate, about two miles away.

Kristies boss Chris Hallam, who did not see the object himself, said: "Several club-goers saw it and so did my assistant manager."

"It was about 2.30am when they saw a yellow triangle hovering in the sky."

The manager of Citylink confirmed that three of his employees were involved in the alleged sighting but he refused to speak about the incident.

A spokesman for Ilkeston police said they had received no reports of a UFO.

ADVERTISEMENT, Ilkeston, England
Nov. 3, 1995

CRAVEN HERALD, Skipton, England
Oct. 27, 1995

Alien watchers spot zig zagging UFO

A GROUP of alien watchers gathered in Sutton to probe the night sky claim they witnessed a bright light which could only have been a UFO.

The 70-strong group, which included members of Cowling Junior Football Club, met on Sunday night for a sponsored UFO watch to raise money for the club.

Spokesman Stephen Place said by 2am on Monday tempers were fraying but as the skies cleared a UFO was spotted over Oakworth Moor.

"It was a bright white and blue light, far larger than a star, zig zagging over a large area of sky faster than the eye

could blink," he said.

"It travelled in vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines over distances of very many miles and was observed for a period of 15 minutes."

"There was no other logical explanation for it. It did about 20 or 30 zig zags and as the cloud obscured it the sky lit up!"

Stephen added most of the group were in a state of shock.

This and other unexplained sightings in the South Craven area has led to the formation of the Sutton UFO Watchers' Group which intends to meet regularly at Crag Delph Nook in the village.

Ilkley is the place for extra-terrestrials!

by Matthew Catling

IF you want to meet an extra-terrestrial, Ilkley Moor is as good a place as any to head for.

This is the basic message of UFO Mysteries of Ilkley Moor, a booklet compiled by Menston ufologist Nigel Mortimer.

In it he states: "It has become evident that certain parts of the moors have conclusively been visited/frequented by unknown aerial phenomena."

Some of the most UFO-friendly of these 'parts' are the Cow and Calf Rocks, White Wells, the Hangingstone Quarry and the stone megaliths found on the moor's high plateau.

Here you might witness a Ball of Light (BOL), a Light in the Sky (LIT), a flying saucer or even a short green man who either runs away on being spotted or puts you in a trance and abducts you to his spacecraft for examination.

Virtually every known first-hand account, historical report or story regarding Ilkley Moor's 'haunted' reputation is examined somewhere in the booklet.

This includes detailed coverage of the famous 1987 abduction case involving a former policeman who managed to take a blurred picture of what may be an alien standing near White Wells.

Mortimer also propounds his own theories about the connection between UFO's, the British military establishment and the Menwith Hill listening station.

But does anything in UFO Mysteries of Ilkley Moor constitute irrefutable evidence of UFO activity over Ilkley Moor? Sadly, the answer is no, and Mortimer's erratic spelling and grammar do not help his case.

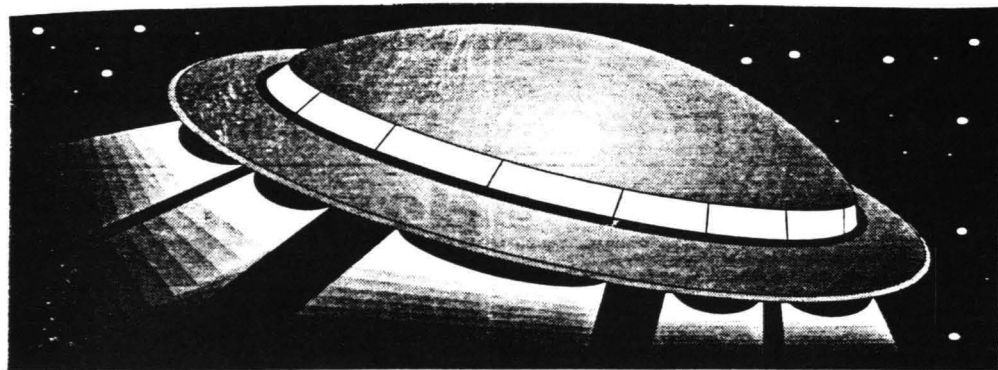
This is not to say that the accounts are not true or interesting, just that they would not stand up in a court of law.

However, a telling description of a 'close encounter' with a hovering light comes from the author himself. "I felt as if the object I was looking at 'knew me'... When it left the scene I felt a great wave of emotion building up in me, and it was like having someone very close taken away from me, never to be seen again," he writes.

□ Copies of UFO Mysteries of Ilkley Moor cost £3 plus 50p postage and are available from Nigel Mortimer, 5 Stocks Hill, Menston, West Yorkshire, LS29 6ND.



Nigel Mortimer looks out over the Cow and Calf Rocks - a scene of alleged UFO sightings.



Ex-PC's 'saucy' job is out of this world

By PAT GRIFFITHS

STUDENTS enrolling for sevening classes at NEW College this autumn may have noticed a slightly unusual subject on the timetable.

Mention flying saucers in company and smiles and knowing looks tend to be exchanged. UFOs have not always been taken too seriously. But that's all about to change. For retired West Midlands policeman John Hanson is launching a series of lectures on the subject. It is the second year he has run the course, the only one in the county. John is the Worcestershire agent for Quest International, an organisation set up to monitor sightings of unexplained phenomena. Now, he plans to share some of the information he has gathered with students. Among recent case histories he will be relating is that of a young woman driving home to Netherton shortly before midnight last July. The woman, referred to as Sarah Kelly, had made the journey many, many times before and knew the route so well she could have driven it with her eyes shut.

Diamond-shaped

Along the dual carriageway to Bromsgrove, then north-west towards Hagley, Stourbridge and the Black Country. But the details of this particular journey are indelibly etched on her memory. During it, she witnessed something she had never seen in her life - and has never seen since. Sarah was approaching Cleat when blue lights flashing above the hills drew her eye. To her astonishment, she saw a strange, black, diamond-shaped object spinning round and round in the sky. Never letting it out of her sight, she sped back to Netherton where she climbed with her father up a nearby church tower to get a better look. At first, he was incredulous but his scepticism evaporated when he, too, spotted the craft hovering overhead. Even after studying it, he was unable to identify the object before it disappeared into the darkness as suddenly as it had appeared. After stories in local newspapers, three other witnesses said they had also seen the object. No logical explanation has ever been found. In May, a woman reported a pulsating scallop-shaped craft in the sky over Longbridge. Visible for about ten minutes, it was seen by someone else at Crabb's Cross, Redditch. And on a night in January, a disc-shaped object with red, pulsating lights was seen in the sky above Stirlchley. It vanished and re-appeared in Cumbria minutes later. Until recently, these and many other similar unexplained incidents might have been put down to an overactive imagination or a few too many pints at the local. People have always been fascinated by outer space. The idea of 'little green men' visiting Earth in spaceships is not new. From HG Wells' War of the Worlds to Dr Who, 1001: A Space Odyssey, Star Trek, ET and more recent sci-fi box office hits such as Stargate, evidence shows pre-occupation with time travel is not fading. Understandably, given the derision which many such claims have met in the past, those who see UFOs tend to be reticent about going public. But modern technological advances have made flying saucers seem less fantastic and more a real possibility. John Hanson treats all reports of sightings as genuine. He keeps an open mind about UFOs, neither believing or disbelieving in them. He is setting out to build a comprehensive record of UFO sightings which will help establish whether there really is life on other planets. Aged 49, John is the point of contact for anyone who sees or wants to discuss a local sighting which cannot be explained. By collecting all the details at his home near Barnet Green, studying and comparing them with other reported sightings, he aims to compile a vast library of information. He also links up with other Quest agents in Worcester and Shrewsbury to create a wider picture of possible alien activity. "I am not a science fiction fan, I have both feet on the ground. But I firmly believe there is a need for investigation of UFO sightings," he argues. "Too often, people have no chance to discuss what they have seen for fear of ridicule. They cannot talk about it, yet some stay traumatised for years. It has an impact on their lives. "You've got to look at things scientifically. About 50 per cent of sightings can be explained. But there are others which don't resemble terrestrial craft. No-one ever comes forward to say this is one of our new research aircrafts, or that is one of our advertising balloons. "Such craft conform to certain patterns. They never make any noise. "All move at colossal speed and change their shape. Witnesses argue about this and there's no reason to dispute what they say. "One man was with about 15 others on a pub car park in Yardley when he saw a disc-shaped craft. It happened in the 1970s and he still has nightmares about it today." John's curiosity about UFOs was awakened by two police colleagues who personally experienced unexplained sightings. He says he has never seen anything himself. "I read about Quest International in a science journal. It was founded by an ex-policeman 15 years ago. Its headquarters is in Yorkshire. "The idea is to communicate information via a nationwide network. We carry out a thorough investigation of circumstances surrounding a sighting and the object." John showed me a short clip from the amateur video of the UFO filmed near Longbridge. It showed a bright flashing light which darted around the screen, apparently following no direct flight path.

Peculiar

Enlarged, it revealed a peculiar scallop-shaped craft which appeared to pulsate as it moved. I had certainly never seen anything like it previously. He also keeps a file of large colour illustrations, drawn by his graphic artist son Keith. "If a sighting occurs, we might get a phone call from a witness. First, I send the person a sighting report form. Next, I go to talk to them. Then Keith draws the object." Four or five sightings are reported every week in the Midlands area and John usually spends three days a week dealing with inquiries. "It drives my wife Kathryn nuts," he chuckles. "She definitely thinks I'm on another planet. "I give talks and lectures regularly at NEW College. I like to show people the evidence and let them make up their own minds. "Einstein's theory suggested that as an object approaches the speed of light, to an observer it appears infinitely smaller and heavier. Time also slows down. "I feel these things come from another dimension. They may even go as fast as the speed of light. "The most common UFO shapes reported are triangles, diamonds and discs. It all depends on the angle from which they are viewed. "We take all sightings seriously. No phone call is in vain. It's all part of an important international monitoring exercise. "No-one who genuinely believes they have seen something should be apprehensive about contacting us." UFO spotters can talk to John on 0121 447 7091. His lectures are held at the Redditch campus of NEW College.



John Hanson: Keeping an eye on time travellers dropping in on the Midlands. Ref: 29318

CHORLEY GUARDIAN, Lancs., England - Oct. 11, 1995

UFOs over the town?

A CHORLEY man who saw a silver cigar-shaped craft hovering in the sky last Saturday evening, is convinced the object was a UFO. Mr Paul Walmsley, 40, was going along Weldbank Lane to his home in Howard Road around 7.30pm when he became aware of the object which he reckons was about the length of two double-decker buses. "It was silver and cigar-shaped with tiny windows and had orange, yellow and red lights beaming up from it," he said. "It hung motionless about 100ft over Perrite Rubber works tower, went forward about 200 yards and then went back. "Then it shot off towards Preston like a bolt of lightning. The most fascinating thing about it was that it was absolutely silent. There was no noise at all. I've been to Woodford air show and seen Harriers, helicopters, vertical take-off jets and all kinds of aircraft, and the noise they make is incredible. This craft never made a sound. It was marvellous to see. "There was no way it was an airship as nothing could go that fast and just hover without making a sound. I'm convinced it was a UFO and that it didn't come from here." Mr Walmsley said another couple in Weldbank Lane also pointed to the object and asked 'What the hell is that?' but he was too absorbed to catch up with them and ask their names. "I've found out since that quite a lot of people saw it apart from me," he added. "Everyone in the pub's been talking about it. A few years ago my wife Shirley and I saw exactly the same thing so I've been following stories on the news and in the papers about similar sightings."

Did you see the mysterious object? Or have you ever seen a UFO? Write to us at the usual address or phone the hotline on 01257 241906.

EVENING POST, Jersey, UK - Oct. 18, 1995

UFOs: We've seen them too, say residents

THREE more Islanders claim to have seen UFOs in the skies above the Island.

Mary Jeanne called the JEP yesterday following a sighting on Sunday night that left her 'spooked'.

"Just after 7.30 pm I was walking my dog Cindy near Havre des Pas bathing pool. I sat down on a bench near the Château de la Mer hotel when I sighted two white flashing lights in the sky way out to sea," said Mrs Jeanne. She was sure that they were not stars, and as they did not move she did not believe that it was an aircraft.

"I went to a phone box and rang the police and was advised to call air traffic control, which I later did from home. When I left the telephone box the lights had gone, although as I walked further along I saw a single light with an orange light below it near the same spot," she said. She added that she had not slept that night because she was so concerned.

Air traffic controller Peter Moore said that the incident would be reported to the aeronautical information section at West Drayton military base. Air traffic control do not intend taking the matter any further.

A professional technician, who preferred to remain anonymous as he did not wish to be seen as a 'publicity-seeking crank', said that he had sighted a circular object above his St Mark's Road home at 3.30 am last Tuesday.

"A bright light from the window attracted my attention, and when I looked out I saw something way up in the sky to the east of Victoria College. It was spherical in shape, changing from blue in colour to red with random lights flashing," he said.

Met office forecaster Mark Le Cornu said that the office had no record of anything unusual observed in the sky at this time.

Following the sighting by Christopher Quinn of 'saucer-like' objects in the sky reported in last Friday's JEP, Beaulieu schoolgirl Solene Le Gall called the JEP to record her recent sightings.

Solene (15) lives with her parents, Emile and Janet, near Melbourne Garage at St John. Her bedroom window overlooks the television transmitter at Fremont Point.

"Two weeks ago last Friday I was sitting in my room at about 8 pm when I saw what I thought was a plane's lights above the transmitter," said Solene. "But the red and white flashing light remained there for more than two hours, just hovering above the tower."

She said that she had wanted to report the incident, but her mother had felt that people would not take it seriously.

Solene said that the same thing occurred last Friday, and that as she had lived in the house for many years she could not have confused it with the lights on the transmitter. "The light was positioned over and above the transmitter - not on it," she said.

It wasn't until Solene's mother read the report in the JEP that she urged her daughter to contact the paper.

Dennis Robinson, the senior engineer at the Fremont transmitter, said that contractors were currently working on improving the lighting system on the tower and that this may have been what Solene sighted.

However, Mr Robinson said that the contractors would have finished before dark.

EVENING ECHO, Bournemouth, England - Sept. 25, 1995

UFO claim upheld by further sighting

ANOTHER Dorset man claims to have seen a UFO similar to the one spotted by Geoffrey Feld.

John Robinson said he was stunned when he opened Thursday's Echo and saw the artist's impression of the UFO spotted by Mr Feld at Brockenhurst.

Lorry driver Mr Robinson said he saw virtually exactly the same object which had three bright white lights rather than red ones.

He was driving to work in his Ford Fiesta along the A354

between Blandford and Sixpenny Handley just before 3am last Wednesday morning when he saw the UFO approach him in the sky.

At first Mr Robinson, 43, of Holland Way, Blandford, thought it was a bright star in the clear sky when he saw something shining in the distance.

He said: "I pulled over and watched it for about five minutes. It was fairly high but I could see an outline and it definitely wasn't an aircraft, there was no noise, it was completely silent."

Readers continue to tell us their mysterious tales...

Did you see UFO on moor?

CHORLEY GUARDIAN, Lancs.,
England - Nov. 8, 1995

WERE you watching the skies over Anglezarke on the evening of Thursday, July 13 this year?

If you were and saw anything unusual, we'd like to hear from you.

Mr Philip Topping, of Ridge Road, Chorley was out on the Anglezarke Moor on that night when he saw what he is convinced was a UFO.

Recalled Philip: "It had all started with many different

types of helicopters, big and small, coming from the North East and South West. They appeared to be looking for something, so I decided to investigate.

"I went onto Anglezarke Moor close to where I had seen lights in the sky in the past. It was slightly cloudy with a full moon when I arrived about 9.30pm.

"For a couple of hours I saw nothing unusual, but on

deciding to return home via Healey Nab, I spotted a strange object just below a cloud in the near distance. It was disc-shaped with what looked like port holes near the centre. It hovered for a short while then shot straight up, half in and half out of a cloud. It stayed there for a few more seconds then entered the cloud and was gone."

Philip's sighting lasted around five minutes and he

noted the time at 00.53.

"I saw it through my binoculars and it definitely wasn't a helicopter," he said.

He can also recall seeing a glowing orange sphere in the sky over Winter Hill back in the late 70s, as he was going along Yarrow Road.

"I believe quite a few other people also saw it," he added.

Were YOU one of them? If so, call us and share your experience.

THE Guardian X-FILES

Spotlight shone in the sky

OUR X-file stories of reported UFO sightings stirred vivid memories for one Chorley couple.

Their sighting, about five years ago, happened as they walked home from Heapey.

Mr X as he doesn't want to be named, recalled that it was 7 o'clock on a September evening when he and his wife became aware of a ball of light suspended below a cloud.

"It was there for a full minute and it was as though someone had switched a spotlight on, a giant floodlight from the sky."

"We heard an aeroplane coming from our right and as we saw this jet plane, the ball of light started going up into the clouds and as the plane got closer, the light just vanished. But it was enormous, although there was no noise."

"It's stuck in our minds ever since. We told our family and friends about it but no one else. I'm open-minded about UFOs, there have been so many sightings I'm sure there must be something. We're always looking up now!"

Do you have a strange experience you would like to tell us about for The Guardian X-Files? Then WRITE to us at 32a Market Street, Chorley, PR7 2RY. Or PHONE us on 01257 264911 during the day or 01257 241906 - our hotline number - in the evenings and at weekends.

DISS EXPRESS, Norfolk, England - Nov. 24, 1995

So is there something out there watching us?

Your UFO views

FOLLOWING last week's report in the Express of an investigation into a UFO sighting over Diss, Express reporters Claire Walker and Melenie Taylor asked you what you thought.

The Norfolk UFO Society (NUFOS) is investigating sightings of an object in the area and is calling for anyone who thinks they might have seen anything to contact them.

Following the story several Express readers phoned in to say they had seen something unfamiliar in the skies over Diss.

The callers, who all wanted to remain anonymous, said that on Wednesday November 15 there were strange lights in the Diss area in the early

evening.

Said one caller, from Fressingfield: "We were waiting at a junction and saw a light in the sky. I asked my daughter if she could see it and she said yes."

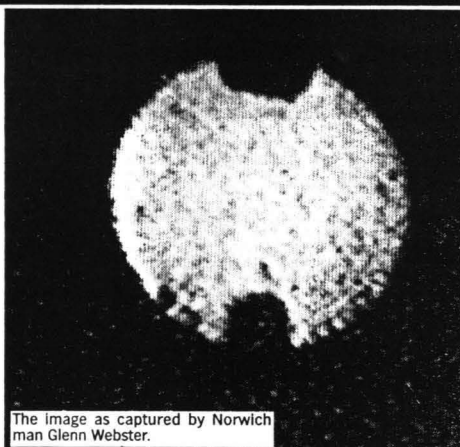
"It was very bright red and had a dome top and straight sides, like the light on a police car. It was so bright and looked fuzzy around the edges."

It was in the Kenninghall direction and I watched it for about a minute.

"I have never seen anything like it before and it certainly was not an aircraft."

Another caller, who was in Diss at the same time, around 430 to 5pm, gave a similar account.

On Friday the Express asked shoppers in Diss what they thought about the possibility of UFOs roaming the skies in the area.



The image as captured by Norwich man Glenn Webster.

HERALD & POST, Luton, England
Oct. 19, 1995

Luton UFO inquiry

A REPORT of an unidentified flying object over Luton has been officially confirmed by the Ministry of Defence - over 30 years after the craft was sighted.

The Public Records Act which, shelves Government information for 30 years, has meant that a reported sighting of a low-flying hovercraft-shaped object over Luton in 1962 has only now come to light.

John Spencer, chairman of the British UFO Research Association, which has 1,000 members, said: "It is very exciting as we haven't had anything like this in Luton before. The

significance is that it was investigated by Royal Air Force Police which indicates it was very unusual.

"Some people will say that the Ministry of Defence has admitted something it has denied for years through these records."

The records reveal more than a dozen UFO sightings around the country which have been kept secret for years, and in many cases officials just cannot explain them.

The UFO over Luton was spotted by a motorist. The public record states: "He saw an object like a hovercraft flying 30 feet above the road. An unknown force slowed him down to

20mph and then the object flew off."

Mr Spencer said: "It is very difficult to tell if there is more information. But I do believe there could certainly be more details on this sighting."

The Luton UFO is, according to Mr Spencer, exactly the same as another around the same time.

He said: "Someone was reportedly chased down the street by a similar object in Middlesex and two police officers reported chasing a low flying UFO in Devon in the 1960s."

Prior to 1967 nearly all Government UFO files were destroyed. The 1962 Luton UFO sighting was released with more recent files this year.

EVENING NEWS, Norfolk, England - Nov. 11, 1995 CR: W. Jones

Heavens above, we're not crackpots says UFO man

by GREG MILAM

DOZENS of UFO-spotters are flocking to join a new group investigating the mysterious goings-on in the Norfolk skies.

Experts in Norwich say there have been more than 40 reported sightings of strange objects in the region's skies since January.

The Norfolk UFO Society is investigating them all.

Society chairman Alex Clark says its membership has increased to 80 in the past few months as more people accept the idea of the unexplained.

The society has launched a probe into two reported sightings at Freethorpe and Aylsham last week.

Alex, a student from Hevingham, said: "We had about 20 members three or four months ago but since then a lot of people have become involved. We have gone from a very amateurish group to a proper society."

"We investigate all reports of sightings. In eight out of 10 sightings we find a rational answer. That could be an aeroplane, military base, boat or helicopter."



UFO SIGHTINGS: Alex Clark, chairman of Norfolk UFO Society, whose membership has increased recently. The society has just launched a probe into two reported UFO sightings.

Photo: PAUL HEWITT

"But we have also had stars, comets, meteorites and even satellites. We interview the witness and contact those places where it could have come from."

"We hope our members are sceptical. If there is no explanation, then we call it a UFO - it is unidentified. We don't jump to conclusions."

"We are not going to say it is

some alien life form. There is no evidence of that, and until there is something in a jar in front of us we will not believe it."

Alex, 19, pointed out: "We

are not crackpots."

Society members include a former police chief inspector, a military intelligence officer and a pilot and they range in age from 14 to 90.

WEST SOMERSET FREE PRESS, Williton, England - Nov. 24, 1995

Teenage girl spots UFO

UFOLOGISTS are probing a second mysterious object spotted in the West Somerset skies in a little over six weeks.

This time, the sighting was early morning in a remote area of the Brendon Hills by a teenage girl.

And it was of a type of craft not reported to Somerset UFO investigators for several years.

Now, the Somerset-based Society for UFO Research and Investigation wants to hear from anybody else who may have seen the grey, spinning top-type craft, which made a low humming noise.

It was seen for a few minutes at about 7.30am on Monday, October 13, by the girl, whose identity is not being revealed by SUFORIN.

The society's assistant director of investigations, Richard Hembury-Kellow, told the Free Press: "We have not heard of the spinning top ones for an awfully long time."

"There are probably well in excess of 20 types that have been reported over the years, which probably indicates there is more than one 'being' out there who has the technology to visit."

In September, former Carhampton Parish Council chairman Greta Thrush, her husband David, and daughter-in-law Ruth reported a brilliantly-lit craft hovering late in the evening over Crowcombe, on the Quantock Hills.

Mr Hembury-Kellow asked anybody with information on the sightings to contact SUFORIN's 24-hour hotline on (01823) 491068.



On the trail of the ape man

By STEVE WILSON

THIS is the hairy Wildman of Laos that villagers in south-east Asia believe killed and ate several locals before and during the Vietnam War.

An Australian scientist who recently returned from Laos said the local Mon people recognised this drawing as being one of the region's Abominable Snowman-like creatures.

But Dr Helmut Loofts-Wissowa, a visiting fellow in the faculty of Asian Studies at the Australian National University, said the villagers had not seen the creatures since the early 1970s.

The area which the creatures were believed to inhabit was close to what was the border of North and South Vietnam — an area extensively defoliated during the Vietnam War, Dr Loofts-Wissowa said.

He believes the creatures were either killed during the war or forced into inaccessible mountainous regions of the country.

The 1.8m creature is said to be covered in short, grey-red fur with a stubby nose.

The only parts of the body without fur are the knees, the soles of the feet, the hands and the face.

The Mon people recognised artists' impressions of a wildman as their local creature.

Dr Loofts-Wissowa is producing a documentary for Japanese television, questioning people in South-East Asia on what sort of apes they had in the area.

He showed pictures of gorillas, gibbons, orang-utans and other apes before he showed the wildman impressions.



Wild thing: The stubby-nosed Wildman of Laos.

The drawings were sketched from photographs a Belgian zoologist took of a large hairy ape man found in a block of ice.

An American showman was exhibiting the body at country fairs in the United States during the late 1960s when the Belgian zoologist photographed it.

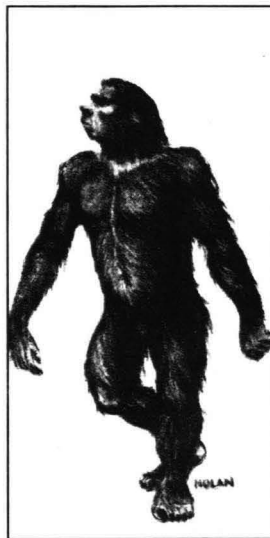
The body of the iceman has since disappeared.

Dr Loofts-Wissowa said only the

older villagers remembered the hairy creatures, but they had horrific tales to tell of the man-eaters.

"If there was one human being and one or more wildmen, then the human being was in great trouble," he said.

"There are reports of the wildmen killing humans and taking them back to their caves and eating them."



Is it the missing link?

If people out-numbered the creatures, the wildmen would normally run away.

Dr Loofts-Wissowa said there were reports of large, hairy beings from Australian and US soldiers during the Vietnam War.

He said he had spoken with an American and an Australian who both served in Vietnam and believed they saw similar ape men.

The American was working with

some locals during the war when he saw people who had been crushed to death. The locals immediately recognised the injuries as being caused by the creature.

Dr Loofts-Wissowa, who is trained in anthropology and archeology, said many of his colleagues scorned his beliefs.

Homo ferus is the term Dr Loofts-Wissowa has given the Wildman of Laos and he believes it is a form of Neanderthal man, generally thought to have died out about 30,000 years ago.

He said it could be the "missing link" between ape and man for which many scientists are looking.

"It would shatter the dogma that the homo sapien is the only human being at present," he said.

Reports of ape men exist in many countries from Russia to the US and Australia.

Dr Loofts-Wissowa has heard reports of three different types of ape men in South-East Asia, including the Wildman of Laos.

There was also a 1.5m creature reported in southern Vietnam and Cambodia and a massive 3m creature reported on the Malaysian peninsula last year, he said.

Sightings of similar sized creatures, known as the Yeti, have been reported in Nepal.

The Australian wildman, known as the Yowie, has been part of Aboriginal mythology, but alleged sightings have continued into this century.

National Party senator Bill O'Chee is one of at least 20 boys who in 1977 claim they saw a creature similar to Chewbacca from *Star Wars* at Lamington National Park, inland from the Gold Coast.

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Major news hit the Walla Walla Bigfoot Country last week as Waitsburg, Dayton, Touchet and environs mucked out of the biggest flood around here in a long, long time.

The news came in a pair of packages Feb. 18, to set the matter in perspective time-wise.

Bearing the load in both packages was Dr. Jeff Meldrum, primatologist at Idaho State University in Pocatello. He was in Walla Walla to visit with the writer plus a pair of Bigfoot hunters, Wes Sumerlin and Paul Freeman.

While the finding of a series (50 or more) of Bigfoot tracks was a big moment (and one of the big news items above) the news Meldrum brought with him was the really BIG news for me.

I'll talk of the many tracks Meldrum was put onto and of which he made casts, but for now, here's the No. 1 item.

Meldrum eagerly brought forth a packet of color photos almost as quickly as he entered Wes' house. I had shown him a copied Bigfoot article but he then countered with "But, wait till you see what I have."

What he had was the series of photos, taken from frames of what I feel will rate as a great Bigfoot documentary...very possibly more important than the 1967 Patterson film. In each photo a Bigfoot slowly emerges from some brush, then stands and walks up the snowy hillside. Since they were the kind of photos they were, the clarity wasn't too good, so I asked how the video originals would produce, in comparison with the famous Patterson film of a female Bigfoot.

Meldrum responded by pointing out that the Patterson pictures were on a 16-mm movie film, the figure of Bigfoot being less than 1/8-inch. Thus, an enlargement to a six-inch picture was demolishing

any semblance of definition and clarity.

Not so with the filming Meldrum was showing us, he said.

"With this film, they told me they should be able to define fingerprints on the animal," he said.

If that is the case, this filming should be a revolutionary Bigfoot aspect, to say the least. While the Patterson filming was done by an amateur while moving after leaping off his horse, the new film was made under more ideal conditions and with modern filming techniques.

Meldrum said he wasn't certain of the date of the filming or of the exact location but told me the pictured action would be shown on an upcoming program of the "Border Lines" television show. We'll be glued to the TV.

The other Bigfoot news came a couple of days later, when Meldrum phoned me to report he and his brother, Mike, had left the Sumerlin home and called on Paul Freeman.

"He said he had just returned from a trip into the foothills and had found some fairly fresh tracks," Meldrum said. Of course, the Meldrums were eager to be shown the spot, so were taken there by Freeman.

"There were a lot of tracks, 50 or so, and of pretty good quality," Meldrum said.

The tracks were in the area in which many have been found in recent years. They were off the Coyote (Meiners) Road leading up from the Mill Creek Road near the Seven Mile Bridge, he said. The site was near Five Points.

Meldrum was enthusiastic about the prints being authentic, citing several features of toe and foot action. He and Mike made several plaster casts of the man-like foot imprints.

This is the latest Bigfoot track

sighting for the Blue Mountains foothills, but not the only one of this flood-time period.

About a week earlier, John Sumerlin, who has a cabin a few miles above Dixie, snowshoed into his place from the Lewis Peak area. Near the cabin they came across several Bigfoot tracks in the snow and took some photographs.

There has been speculation by some that the Bigfoot animal hibernates like a bear. This might not be the case, with this latest incident of tracks in the snow. A few other stories have come my way of the same thing, including one of a Bigfoot running across an open area high in the mountains...in a couple of feet of snow. Doing the sighting was a pilot in a low-flying private plane.

Another incident I recall was a couple of winters ago when some big tracks were found in two feet of snow at the head of the Tiger Canyon road.

Meldrum, by the way, doesn't claim to be any Bigfoot "expert," but he does have much knowledge about primates. And, that's how come he was involved in the purported sighting of a Bigfoot in northern California last fall. Film footage was shot then, too. Meldrum has spent many hours scrutinizing the videotape of this incident which was TV-aired. "As an anthropologist," Meldrum says, "I've always had a peripheral interest in goings-on with Bigfoot." His expertise lies largely in primate evolution and locomotion. He was recommended for the recent California assignment by the International Society of Cryptozoology, of which he is a member. This organization investigates the existence

of animals not yet officially recognized by the scientific community.

As I write of the Patterson film and the latest Bigfoot photo entry, I am scanning a newspaper clipping of May 14, 1978. In the piece there is a report from the University of British Columbia's Sasquatch conference of that time. A paragraph in the item relates of a third Bigfoot filming. This one shot by Frank White, of Seattle, near Mount Baker in 1977, was also shown at the conference along with that of Patterson. According to the clipping, White and his wife were eating lunch alongside a trail when the Bigfoot came walking by. The White film shows a heavier, more rumped Bigfoot than that shot by Patterson.

Regarding this, the clipping notes that a pair of Russian scientists, Dmitri Bayanov and Igor Bourtssev, strongly asserted their belief in the reality of Bigfoot. They also said they had authenticated the Patterson film and said the footprints found at the site demonstrated "subtle differences with man."

The Bigfoot of the Patterson film was described as having flat, shock-absorbent feet, enormous thigh muscles which bulged and a straight-ahead gait which contrasts with man's tendency to stick his feet out. The Russian scientists further noted other distinct characteristics in the Bigfoot footprints. All of which is well and good, but until a living or dead Bigfoot is located for science to examine, the reality of Bigfoot will be trapped in haziness.

The upcoming TV footage reported by Jeff Meldrum will help clear up some of that... hopefully.

A Bonney Lake man is ready to lift his message to the skies

The man from Bonney Lake who spent the last three years and \$2,500 building a machine that he hopes will allow him to speak with space aliens calls and leaves a very short message.

"It's finished," says Ron Stewart.

And for a brief and faithless moment I think he means he has given up, surrendered, lost hope and no longer believes. I call back. He explains that it is his machine, and not he, that's finally done.

He's planning a demonstration - a ceremonial unveiling - within the next month, he says. At the Bonney Lake Safeway parking lot. Complete with a message of welcome he'll send to any extra-terrestrials who might be listening. Complete with a chance for members of the public to send messages of their own.

So maybe, Stewart says, I'd like to come out and have an early look.

I'd seen his machine, his PETSETI - his Photo-Electric Transmitter in Search of Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence - three years ago, when it was only a grid of PVC plumbing pipe. I saw it a year later, after its coils of glass tubing had been filled with neon, krypton, argon and xenon.

But now the thing is finished, and Stewart stands in the shadow it draws beside the double-wide he shares

with his wife of 27 years, near the trailer where his son lives, beside a handful of cars in various states of disuse, beside the rusty bus he once called home.

Stewart stands under a canopy of tall firs beneath a cloudy sky filled with mysteries and dreams.

He turns everything on and hands me a hand-made microphone about the size of a pack of cigarettes.

He tells me to say something. I say hello. Thus does my own greeting go forth to meet the cosmos.

"My goal is to make contact," he says, "and to help them convey their message."

And what does he think that message will be?

"They don't have prisons, they don't have hospitals, they don't have roads," he says. "They don't have hate, fear, anxiety. They have love, compassion, understanding."

Stewart knows this because "it's a feeling. If you want to call it intuition, so be it. But it's more than that."

Much more. He believes he was abducted by aliens



Ron Stewart with the machine he designed and built to communicate with extraterrestrials.

when he was 3, when he lived in Alaska. Now he's 49. The abduction, he says, was random.

"There's nothing special about me," he says.

Nothing special about a former mechanic who grew up in Burien. Nothing special about a pony-tailed former maintenance engineer with a one-time taste for fortified wine. But he hasn't had a drink in four years. He's finished with

that.

And he's finally ready to begin his new adventure.

He aims his machine with a steering wheel from a '69 Chevy he found in the woods near Buckley. The apparatus stands on an axle taken from a mobile home, and it is fastened to a small trailer he found "in the sticker bushes" at the back of his lot.

"A child can operate this thing with two fingers," he says. "It can go anywhere I point it."

He points it toward a cold February sky.

A 20-watt amplifier sits bolted near a camcorder. Inside a covered frame rest a transformer taken from a color TV and a capacitor salvaged from a 1,500-watt microwave oven.

Add a counterweight molded from the lead of a melted battery, plus 32 infrared diodes and eight high-output photo-transmitters, plus the tubes of gases, plus the mirrors all shiny, and a core made from a sewer pipe. Add one aerial found on a roadside, plus eight optical collimators fashioned from plastic drinking cups, and finally affix at the bottom a hair dryer used to blow away fog.

Actually, in a sculpture-from-our-culture kind of a way, it's beautiful. It glows like a Las Vegas casino searchlight and it hums like a secret utensil from some science fiction opera.

Stewart has contacted the permission-givers at Bonney Lake City Hall asking about the upcoming public demonstration. He's about ready to write a letter to Safeway corporate headquarters. He's not about to give up, now that he's come this far and this close.

"I've tried to put it down several times," he says, "but I can't."

He's ready to begin, now that he's finished.

"I don't want to be a messiah. I don't want to be a prophet. Whatever is directing me to do this has been life-long," he says.

He'll stand in that parking lot one night soon when the weather is better and he will transmit questions into the sky.

Then, he says, he'll wait for some answers.

C.R. Roberts' column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can be reached at 597-8535, or by fax at 597-8274. Address TRIBnet e-mail to CR Roberts and Internet e-mail to crr@p.tribnet.com

POST-INTELLIGENCER, Seattle, WA - Jan. 28, 1996

Bigfoot may well be a figment of the mind, but don't tell that to its worldwide devotees

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WALLA WALLA — Two books were published last year, one documenting Sasquatch legends, the other an attempt to trail Bigfoot across the Dark Divide, an area of the Cascades in southern Washington and northern Oregon.

Bigfoot commands several sites on the Internet's World Wide Web. A well-funded research project has been launched near Oregon's Mount Hood to document and prepare a computer analysis of all plausible Bigfoot reports. Two hot-lines are in place to collect Bigfoot sightings.

The Western Bigfoot Society, the largest of a host of interest groups all over the world, meets

monthly in Portland, and a Bigfoot symposium is scheduled this summer near Vancouver, B.C.

"Something is definitely afoot in the forests of the Pacific Northwest. Either an officially undescribed species of hominoid primate dwells there, or an act of self- and group deception of astonishing proportions is taking place. In any case, the phenomenon of Bigfoot exists," Washington naturalist Robert Michael Pyle wrote in "Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide."

The search spans the globe, from reports of an apelike creature in southern France to sightings in Louisiana's bayous and Ohio's woodlands. There is a Bigfoot society in Moscow and a newsletter

published in Whittier, Calif.

"There are a lot of anthropologists who believe that people have to believe in giants or something unusual," said Constance Cameron, an anthropologist and California State University, Fullerton. "I don't know. It's hard to think that a creature like this could exist, and yet people are very firm in their beliefs. People from various backgrounds ... tell very convincing stories."

A good starting point for Internet resources on Bigfoot is at the following Web address:
<http://www.teleport.com/~caveman/wbs.html>

POST, Washington, DC - March 22, 1996 CR: L. Bryant

Green Cheese and Baloney

'Scientists' Say There's More on the Moon Than Meets the Eye

By Richard Leiby
Washington Post Staff Writer

As news conferences go, this one was irresistible: Scientists to reveal "ancient artificial structures on moon." "Suppressed evidence" includes photos of Apollo astronauts walking amid "apparent lunar ruins." Be there at 9 a.m., National Press Club, for the story of the century.

Reporters from at least 60 worldwide media organizations came to see proof of aliens. They scrutinized grainy blowups of old NASA photos and slides of impossibly fuzzy objects—including a blob that the assembled research team called "the cas-

tle." To be more precise: "an extraordinary, highly geometric, glittering glass object hanging more than nine miles above the surface of the moon," in the words of Richard Hoagland, the New Jersey author and noted pseudo-scientist who called the conference.

Hoagland, 50, is, basically, a kook. He's famous for popularizing the sighting of an alleged "human face" in the terrain of Mars, and he more recently claimed that the Bosnian peace talks were held in Dayton, Ohio, so world leaders could view the alien bodies housed in a hangar there.

in one Hoagland handout.

Meanwhile, people who'd read about the news conference on the Internet phoned newsrooms around the country, including The Washington Post, wondering how much about the alien civilization had been revealed in the "suppressed" NASA photos. Derek Jett, an ad agency director in Memphis, called to make sure The Post was covering the story, saying, "You wonder whether the guy's a hoax, but in the back of your

mind you know the government covers up some things."

Perhaps this attitude isn't surprising, given the popularity of shows such as "The X-Files" and "Alien Autopsy," which flood the culture with fantastic notions of evil government bureaucrats harboring incredible secrets. People can't help hoping that aliens built castles on the moon, because the truth is too boring. We went to the moon. Found a bunch of rocks. End of story.

"I wish we had seen something like what he's describing," Bean said yesterday from Houston. "It would have been the most wonderful discovery in the history of humankind—and I can't imagine anyone, in my wildest dreams, not wanting to share that."

Hoagland, a science writer who served as a CBS News consultant during the Apollo missions, labeled his latest effort the Enterprise Mission, borrowing some credibility from "Star Trek." ("To boldly go where maybe someone has gone before," he said.) His researchers include, for the most part, fans of his book "The Monuments of Mars"—which NASA researchers and others, including Carl Sagan, have shown to be specious. ("There is a capacity for self-delusion," Sagan began explaining yesterday in his trademark cadence.)

One of Hoagland's investigators is Ken Johnston, an engineer who did contract work for NASA and examined photographs at the Lunar Receiving Lab in Houston. Johnston told reporters he believes that aliens once used the moon as an observation post to watch civilization evolve on Earth. He claims he was ordered to destroy negatives at the Johnson Space Center—but managed to save a set for posterity. (Evidently, the Conspiracy didn't quite do its job.)

"We're ready to tell the nation and the world," Johnston announced, "and let the evidence speak for itself."

NASA scientists pointed out that the photos—some made by lunar orbiters, others shot by astronauts—have been in the public domain for decades, and, interestingly, no one else has discovered the alleged alien-built crystalline palaces.

Hoagland said a "source" at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt leaked him a pristine negative from the Apollo 10 mission showing a 1½-mile-high "shard" protruding from the lunar surface. "I cannot explain a feature like that on the face of the moon," said Ronald Nicks, a geologist on Hoagland's team.

"I see absolutely nothing like the so-called shard," said Paul Lowman, a Goddard geologist and expert in orbital photography, after examining the frame cited at the news conference. "He's seeing some sort of a [photo] processing defect."

Lowman added: "Hoagland and people like him don't seem to realize that NASA has been looking for extraterrestrial life for 35 years. ... We are the last agency on Earth that would hide such a thing—we'd all like to be the one on our way to Stockholm to get the Nobel Prize."

Tomorrow's news conference: Experts discuss archival footage revealing Jackie Gleason's face in the full moon.

WHITMAN CO. GAZETTE, Colfax, WA - Feb. 29, 1996

Northwest's Bigfoot listed as protected species

When Farm Bureau member Jim Baum of Maple Valley researched King County land-use documents, he found "Bipedus Giganticus or Sasquatch," listed as a protected species. The myth can be found between other protected species

such as "bobcat" and "beaver" in a March 1991 King County document called the Wetlands Inventory List.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "To me a Sasquatch is a mythical beast. Sasquatch was on the protected species list. It's

like coming across a unicorn on the protected species list."

Sasquatch, also known as Bigfoot, is a part of the Northwest's folklore. There have been innumerable tales of Bigfoot sightings for more than 100 years. The earliest

Sasquatch reports can be found in ancient Indian legends.

Baum's troubles with King County started when he wanted to sell his dairy farm and buy a hay farm in Eastern Washington. A potential buyer for his farm called off the deal after he discovered the farm was designated as a wetland under King County Sensitive Areas Ordinance. He then undertook his research.

"About 13 acres of my 17-acre farm is now designated as a

wetland," said Baum. "However, I say it's an alleged wetland because the county does not have proof it's a wetland. They lost the original paperwork."

According to a King County interoffice memo dated April 13, 1992, from one King County employee to another, the box of files with the original wetlands inventory sheet is lost. "I cannot find the missing box in our office," the memo said.

Baum said he has been telling King County officials **Sasquatch** or Bigfoot is a **gigantic** bureaucratic mistake. "The listing must have been a joke," he said. "However, if Sasquatch is added to the list how many other myths could be listed as protected? I'd call it the biggest **bureaucratic** Bigfoot bumble and it's a bad case of Bigfoot in mouth."

In the meantime, Baum cannot farm his land or sell it. He makes his living as a home remodeling contractor. He says he works hard to feed his 15 dogs, 8 cats, one llama, one cow, two horses, two pigs, two goats, one rabbit, two chickens, one goose and five sheep.

"I have to work hard to feed these animals and make the payments on the wetlands to protect Bigfoot."

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - Dec. 24, 1995

Tapping our psychic powers

Spy program shrink says it's easy: 'Think of your mind as ... like a blank piece of paper'

By Julian Guthrie
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

Everything in the room was painted white. The lights were dimmed. There were no windows. There was no sound.

Tiburon psychologist Keith Harary, alone in the white room, had been given an assignment: "Describe the condition of Subject X." Given no other details, he began to concentrate, striving to clear his mind of everything save making "a connection" with this unseen stranger.

Soon, Harary was describing an "extremely ill person" who had a "physical disease that was affecting his mental state." The subject, he said, may be suffering from multiple sclerosis. In any case, he predicted, the person "would be on a plane in the next two to three days."

Two days later, in July 1980, American diplomat Richard Queen, one of 53 Americans being held hostage in Iran, was released from captivity. He was flown to a military hospital in West Germany — where he was treated for neurological problems later diagnosed as multiple sclerosis.

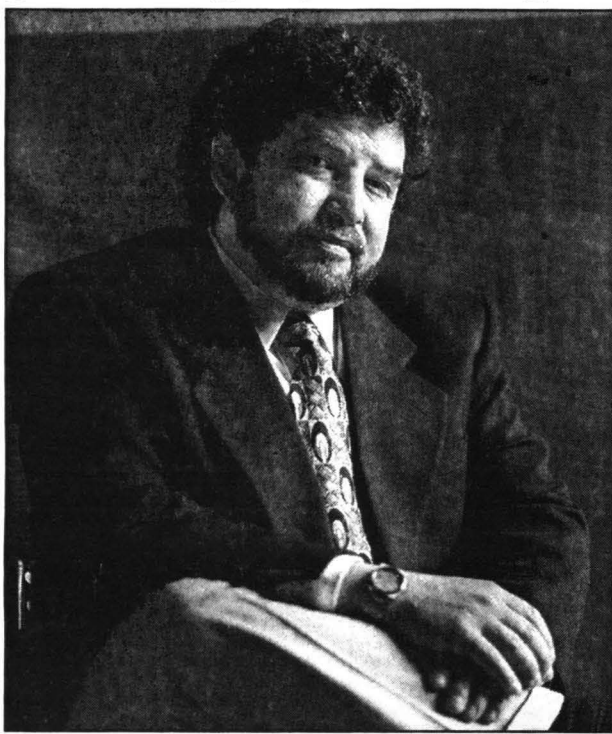
Harary, whose prediction was verified by others, was one of about 100 people who participated in Stargate, a top secret "psychic spies" program that flourished in the 1970s and early '80s at the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park and other government-funded facilities.

The CIA recommended killing the program earlier this month. But Harary and other psychic researchers say the experiments helped the government spy on its adversaries — and tapped the psychic talents that are in all of us.

"Sure, I was successful," said Harary, 42. "The results were sufficient to convince me there was something worth investigating."

Harary came to the research institute (now called SRI International) in 1980. He had arrived in the Bay Area a year earlier to counsel survivors of the Peoples Temple massacre and had done psychic research previously at a medical center in Brooklyn. He heard about the SRI program when he met its founder, Dr. Harold Puthoff, at a science conference.

At SRI, and later at the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in Palo Alto, Harary spent most of his time doing "remote viewing" experiments. These involved sitting in one room, with the "sender" in another room, and trying to perceive and draw the images of various objects the send-



EXAMINER

Keith Harary, a Tiburon psychologist and one-time government psychic: "You must get yourself out of the way. When you peel away all that, there's another layer and that is the perceptive layer."

er would select.

Psychic researchers, Harary said, all follow a basic process.

"Everyone learns to separate their own thoughts, what I call 'mental noise' from impressions, feelings and images related to the subject or target," he said. "You must get yourself out of the way. When you peel away all that, there's another layer and that is the perceptive layer."

He grimaces at the notion of "psychic" spies.

"I hate that," he said. "I'm a psychologist, not a psychic. If someone calls you a psychic, it undermines your credibility and has all sorts of negative connotations."

Everyone has psychic abilities

Calling his talents nothing unusual, Harary said everyone has psychic abilities that are both innate and acquired.

He said people can gauge their psychic talent and improve upon it by playing a simple game of hide-and-guess, with one person hiding an object and another trying to perceive it.

"Put your hands out and imagine what it would be like to hold the object," Harary suggested. "Imagine yourself feeling the weight of it and turning it over. Notice the first image of a shape that comes to mind."

The idea is to learn to separate correct impressions from incorrect ones. Eventually, Harary said, it's possible to notice that correct impressions "have a certain feeling."

While everyone follows the same process, "different people

have different rituals," he said. Some psychic researchers had to be in soundproof rooms with red lights shining in their faces; others cut Ping-Pong balls in half, placed them over their eyes and wore headphones playing static.

"The most important thing to remember," he said, "is to get yourself out of the way. Think of your mind as becoming like a blank piece of paper."

Other experiments at SRI and SAIC included psychokinesis, which tested whether random processes could be affected by the mind.

Claims of stopping frog hearts

Researchers in the Soviet Union claimed they had the ability to stop the hearts of frogs, just by thinking about it. The Russians allegedly did these experiments in hopes of influencing world leaders at a distance.

"We were doing psychokinesis experiments, also called distant perception," said Larissa Vilenskaya, 49, who worked as a psychic researcher in the Soviet Union from 1969 to 1975 and later went to work at SRI after emigrating to the United States. "In Russia, we tested whether, for example, when you're listening to someone speaking over the radio, can you change the person's state of mind?"

Vilenskaya, who lives in Mountain View, said she didn't know which Western leaders the Soviets had targeted.

Joe McMoneagle, an Army intelligence officer who was recruited by SRI in 1978, was considered one

of the program's most talented psychic researchers, according to Dr. Edwin May, a nuclear physicist who headed the program at SRI and SAIC for almost 10 years.

In 1988, while working at SRI, he was shown a black and white photo of an individual he'd never seen. He was asked to describe where that person would be at a specific time.

"The image didn't come to me all at once," he said of a drawing that depicts, in remarkable detail, the windmills at Altamont Pass, where the person happened to be.

From his home in Nellysford, Va., where he runs a company that offers psychic consultations, McMoneagle, 49, complained about the program's critics — some of whom have called the experiments a lot of hokey.

"They make the assumption that all other intelligence works 100 percent of the time," he said, when most intelligence "does no better than the 20 or 25 percent accuracy rate that remote viewing does."

McMoneagle cited his Legion of Merit award, which he was given in 1984, as proof of the program's value.

"I got that for providing over 150 essential elements of information that were of critical value to the defense of the nation" and were unavailable from any other source, he said.

Only 1 percent of the research done on psychic spying has been made public, according to May, who is trying to raise funds to continue the psychic experiments.

"The still-classified part involves the operations, not the research," he said. "For instance, if psychic spies were used to look in on a drug operation, it would still be sensitive to reveal names and locations."

'I'm more psychic than you'

Another sensitive subject: the behavior of some of the psychic researchers.

Many, Harary said, became very self-absorbed and didn't handle the pressure well.

"At SRI, there were people who got incredibly full of themselves," he said. "Everyone wanted to be the top psychic. There was this attitude of, 'I'm more psychic than you are.'"

Harary recalled one woman who had worked as a photographer all her life, then was tested as a remote viewer and did well.

"The next thing you know," Harary said, "this woman was throwing tantrums and yelling at you if you didn't acknowledge her as a 'special' person."

McMoneagle said the competition was healthy.

"There was an air of each person wanting to do better than the other," he said. "Some people were able to compete in a healthy way; others couldn't handle themselves as human beings — never mind psychics."

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK

March 7, 1996

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

HAARP IS ON THE MENU AT THE CARIBOU CAFE

GLENNALLEN — Local residents, worried about a government auroral research project in Gakona, gathered at the Caribou Cafe a few days ago to watch videos about the program and share their concerns.

They viewed a video produced by Jon Breivogel, which included a piece on the "High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program," or HAARP, and a copy of a segment on the project from the "Sightings" television program.

Breivogel's video suggests that HAARP is actually a secret military project, rather than the military-sponsored scientific research project HAARP spokesman John Heckscher says it is.

Some local residents, like Breivogel, are worried the project has potentially negative side effects, which might include the potential to change the weather, the ability to scramble brainwaves, the ability to "zap" the sky, and fears that it could open a hole in the ionosphere and trigger a chain reaction that is much worse than the ozone hole.

Others fear the project could disrupt communications, stun people with electrical charges, change migratory patterns in salmon and affect the DNA in embryos.

The main concern presented in the video is that HAARP could lead to a CIA-sponsored futuristic weapon.

Several scientists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Cornell University have said the project in Gakona is intended to find out more about the ionosphere, to determine if the energy in the ionosphere can be tapped for radio transmission, and to work on the design of an ionospheric heater. They have repeatedly said the project doesn't have a malevolent agenda.

— Copper River
Country Journal